THE

SPORTING MAGAZINE:

OR,

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Of the TRANSACTIONS of the TURF, the CHASE, and every other DIVERSION interesting to the MAN of PLEASURE, ENTERPRIZE, and SPIRIT.

For MARCH, 1794.

CONTAINING,

	Page
Chefs Match at Parfloe's —	297
Alarming Cataftrophe of General Goldfworthy —	ibid.
Portraits, No. I. and II. —	299
Hawking — —	301
Running Exploits of Thomas Trundley — —	302
Method of deftroying Hares by the Hare Pipe — —	303
Veterinarian Remonftrance	ibid.
On Hunting, Letter XII.	305
Anecdote of Mr. Beckford's Huntfman — —	306
Prognofticks of the Weather from Vegetables — —	ibid.
Method of Hunting the Afs in the Kingdom of Quito —	307
To Angle for Tench —	309
Hints to Horfemen —	310
Inftructions for Juvenile Equeftrians	311
Swinley Lodge —	314
Natural Hiftory of the Partridge	316
Hiftorical Effay on the Chafe	317
The Game of Faro —	319
Defcription of Palfrey's Infirmary, Coventry — —	322
Suggeftion of a Correfpondent to defcribe the various kinds of Pigeons	ibid.
Anecdote of a celebrated Fox Hunter	323
Remarkable Inftance of the Fidelity of a Dog —	324
Extraordinary Equeftrian and Pedeftrian Performances -	324
Exploits of Johnny Gilpin the Second - -	327
Mirth's Mufeum; or, the Country Club — —	328
The Feaft of Wit; or, Sportfman's Hall — —	329
Defcription of New Drury Lane Theatre — —	332
Sporting Intelligence —	335
Faro at Routs —	337
Matrimony — —	338
POETRY.—The Huntfman's Rhapfody—The Pedlar—Prologue to the Box Lobby Challenge—Epilogue to the fame—Epigram—Extempore Lines—Actæon Metamorphofed—Song—The Banker of Love—Impromptu —	339—342
RACING CALENDAR.—At York—Epfom—Afcot—Brighthelmftone—Lewes—Prefton—Burford—Lancafter—Cirencefter—Gloucefter—Bath—Lambourn—Egham—Canterbury—Lincoln—Litchfield—Catterick Bridge—Newcaftle	59—74
Index — —	343
Directions to the Binder —	348

Richly ornamented with 1. A ftriking Reprefentation of the Chess Match, at Mr. Parsloe's, St. James's Street, between Mr. Phillidor and Count Bruhl, with Mr. Wilson. 2. Picturesque View of Palfrey's Infirmary, Coventry, both beautifully engraved by COOK.

LONDON:

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CAPTAIN SNUGG's favours are received, and he will find some part of them in our *Poetical Department*. His communications, though always acceptable, would have more weight with us, were they sent without a previous insertion in a *Newspaper*.

A PIGEON-FANCIER shall have his suggestion attended to.

C. W's two Letters came to hand; and such Articles as have not already appeared in our RACING CALENDAR, shall be inserted in our next; we at the same time will thank him, as well as the rest of our numerous Correspondents, to favour us with their Pieces as early as possible in the Month.

Essay on the Origin and Antiquity of Forests, is received, and shall be attended to.

A Defence of the Game Laws is also well entitled to our attention.

B. C. may rely on our furnishing a Series of Hints for Horsemen, in the subsequent Numbers of our Miscellany.

Instructions, negatively conveyed, for the proper Disposition of the Body in Drawing the Bow, shall speedily appear.

The Game of Hazard is received.

A Parody on the Practice of Letting out Bulls by the season, is under consideration; but we are inclined to pronounce it inadmissible.

Veritas, in spite of his Signature, cannot so far impose upon our credulity, as to induce us to believe his wonderful assertions. If he is acquainted with any Branch of the Science of Archery, it is that of *shooting with the long bow*.

SPINOSA's Favour came too late for this Month.

The Proprietors of the Sporting Magazine had, previous to the receipt of the Letter signed I. S. taken such steps as must prevent the possibility of their having similar complaints.

THE

Sporting Magazine,

For MARCH, 1794.

CHESS MATCH.

AT the particular request of several gentlemen who were present at the CHESS MATCH between Mr. PHILLIDOR and Count BRUHL, with Mr. WILSON, at Parsloe's, on the 23d of February last, (for a particular account of which, see page 282 of our last Number), we have given a beautiful engraving from a drawing taken on the spot, by an artist of the highest professional abilities. As the OTTOMAN MINISTER is the most conspicuous figure in the *groupe*, we flatter ourselves it will be equally acceptable to his Excellency, as we doubt not it will be to the readers of the SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GEN. GOLDSWORTHY.

ON Saturday morning, March 15, his Majesty, with the Prince of Wales, General Goldsworthy, and several attendants, set out from Buckingham-house, on horseback, to go to Blackwall, in order to be present at the embarkation of some troops of cavalry, destined for foreign service.

On their way thither, at half past eight o'clock, and whilst riding briskly down the City-road, leading to Moorfields, within five hundred yards of the turnpike, a most melancholy event happened. General Goldsworthy, the King's equerry, suddenly dropped from his horse, and fell in the road.

His

His Majesty and party instantly stopped, when his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with that promptitude and humanity so peculiar to his character and disposition, dismounted, and flew to the General's assistance; first lifting him up, and afterwards placing him with great care and tenderness against a prop on the path-way; nor was his Majesty less anxious for the situation of the unfortunate gentleman, who appeared to be in a fit, and had not uttered a word since the fall.

His Majesty addressed himself to the person who writes this, and to others collected together, and asked—"Is there a surgeon near at hand?"—"Yes, sire," was answered,—"Mr. Curtis, the surgeon, lives just at the entrance of Islington." A servant was immediately dispatched for Mr. Curtis.

Meanwhile the King, with much solicitude, asked several questions of the Prince of Wales—"Can he speak?—is his skull fractured?—I heard him give a dreadful groan!—what is to be done?—I am afraid he will die!—where does he live?" addressing himself to the Prince: his Royal Highness mentioned the General's residence.—Some warm water was mentioned—"a good thought," said his Majesty, whose countenance, it must be observed, expressed, during the whole time, the most poignant distress at witnessing so sudden a calamity befalling one who, but a few minutes before, was in perfect health, and with whom he had been in a familiar discourse. Observing Mr. Curtis coming down the road, on the servant's horse, his Majesty rode to meet him, and explain the accident.

Upon any other occasion, seeing Mr. Curtis riding down the City-road in his *slippers*, would have been thought a ludicrous circumstance; but upon this, it shewed that gentleman's alacrity and readiness to administer relief to a fellow-creature in distress.

On Mr. Curtis's arrival, he opened the collar of the General's shirt, chaffed his temples, &c. After lifting him up, he was led to a neighbouring house, before which his Majesty waited, until he heard all was done that could be done. After giving orders that a coach might be sent for, to convey the General home, the royal party proceeded on their journey to Blackwall.

The dress and outward shew of a man, however elegant, is scarcely to be mentioned with his actions, when employed in the kind offices of humanity; but the nobly active appearance of the Prince of Wales, in his regimentals of the 10th light dragoons, with helmet and feathers, presented, on the above occasion, a form and manner equally graceful and polished with his exalted and liberal mind.

R. J.

Canonbury Priory,
March 16. 1794.

*** *One of our ingenious Artists who happened accidentally to be a witness of this interesting scene, thinking it a subject well worthy of his Pencil, has executed a Drawing, in a stile of excellence that, we doubt not, will meet the warmest approbation of our Subscribers, from which a Plate is now engraving for our next Number. When we inform our Readers that the Plate is in the hands of* COOK, *any further commendation would be superfluous.*

To

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

Gentlemen,

YOUR having given so accurate and justly critical a delineation of "the Turf Gallery," a work that does immortal honour to the *name*, and will to the *memory* of Stubbs; encourages me to communicate a description of the most celebrated Portraits in which I term "*the* Sporting Gallery" of an *antique mansion* I retain in the country; but to which, modern phraseology has annexed the appellation of "A Hunting Box."

Presuming all introductory apology to be unnecessary, with you, Mess. Editors, I now transmit a few of the portraits, and shall continue to furnish others in proportion as you dispose of these in your highly entertaining Magazine.

I am your humble servant,

——.

March 20, 1794.

Portraits. No. I,

Is a subject of so much personal worth, intrinsic merit, and transcendent greatness, that it can create no surprise, the pencil of the artist has fallen so infinitely short of the original. It was intended to communicate a representation of the First Man, if not the *greatest sportsman* in the kingdom; and may, to the sporting world in general, be held out as a model for imitation. Innately superior to all the arts of affectation and fashionable duplicity, he personally enters into, and happily enjoys all the pleasures of rationality, all the comforts of society, without a *prostitution* of judgment, or a *degradation* of dignity; those pleasures are the effusions of a most distinguished philanthropy, and their gratifications (happy for his numerous and national dependents) the palpable promotion of health.

Although he keeps two packs of hounds, with a noble establishment of *old* and *faithful* dependents, as well as a very extensive stud of the best hunters in the kingdom, yet his pecuniary punctuality displays an incontrovertible proof, that he never plans without prudence, never executes without œconomy. The most distinguishing trait in his character, as a sportsman, is an invariable attachment to the chase, in which "he bears his blushing honours thick about him," and holds out to many of the ostentatious sprigs of aristrocacy who surround him, a most glorious and inexpressible example of affability, politeness, and fraternal affection. In the field he is more than a K——, by giving the most condescending and unequivocal proofs he wishes to be considered a man; and fostering under every proper and respectful distinction (that subordination can dictate, and unsullied loyalty happily feel) the truly extatic sensation of personal equalization with his own subjects who revere him, and from whom he is conscientiously and exultingly convinced he has nothing to fear. Before and after, as well as during the chase, he enters into all its varieties with the great number of private gentlemen who constantly attend, and to each individual of whom he pays the most attentive civilities. Proofs innumerable of this distinguishing trait might be adduced, but few will suffice upon the present occasion, to corroborate what is already so universally known, and so generally admitted.

During

temporaries, has unhappily become the dupe of almost every *villanous shark* in the higher circles of society. Not a polished adventurer of *the family* but has enjoyed some part of the general depredation upon his property; possessing sensations openly alive to all the tender claims of HUMANITY, to all the endearing offices of POLITE SOCIETY, he could not, so early in life, be proof against the eternally seducing attractions of *duplicity*. Born to support a situation far superior to every idea of *subordination*, he could not be abstracted from that infinity of *temptation* to which a P—— of so much distinguished PHILANTHROPY, so much invariable AFFABILITY, must inevitably become the incessant subject. Propelled by the influence of *fashion*, and the never-failing force of example, he became a temporary dependent upon the deceptive criterion of *friendly* assistance, and a dupe to the most *villanous schemes*, the *most* abandoned artifices that ever disgraced an aristocratic association. Under the relentless influence of such connections, he unfortunately embarked in every unjustifiable and ruinous pursuit that *juvenility* could adopt, or infatuation approve. His *hounds*, *hunters*, *stud* in training, and the *retinue* that were attendant upon the whole, exceeded, in their enormity, every idea, both in number and expenditure; which, in addition to the immense sums for which he stood engaged upon *the turf*, would have annihilated the revenue of majesty itself, and rendered *additional* claims upon NATIONAL LIBERALITY, matter of the most inevitable necessity. Happy, however, for himself, happy for his AUGUST and ANXIOUS RELATIVES, more happy for an admiring expectant, and beloved nation, (over whom he is expected hereafter to preside) he has, with a degree of ardour that adds lustre to a long list of inherent virtues no longer to be obscured, nobly and voluntarily relinquished every fascinating folly that could tend to *sully* his fame, or degrade his dignity. His hunting establishment has been long reduced, his numerous *racing stud* distributed by the hammer of a *fashionable auctioneer*, and his almost unlimited retinue dismissed, as a kind of *sacrifice* to ŒCONOMY, in solicitation for the happy effect of her benignant offices, in the restoration of FAME, preservation of HONOUR, and renovation of PECUNIARY PUNCTUALITY.

(To be continued.)

HAWKING.

The following Account coming from the only Gentleman now in England who pursues the diversion in style, is so curious, that while we are glad to present it, it becomes matter of curiosity to the Sportsman and the Naturalist.

I HAVE observed a paragraph relative to a hawk of mine being taken with two marks round his leg, *(See our Magazine, Vol.* III. *page* 2,) for such are those brass collars called. When, after a very good flight, the quarry is taken, it is usual to show it clemency and ring it. If ever after it is taken by any other falconer in the flight, he is bound by the ancient laws of falconry to put his own ring on it; and having been released, is proclaimed a royal bird, that is, he never ought to be killed, but released by any falconer that may take him. Such is the courtesy of the ancient falconers. The kite mentioned was first taken near Alconbury-hill, and the second time

time at Falconer's Hall, on the Yorkſhire Wolds.

Several different kinds of game, ſuch as herns, kites, curlews, &c. have been ringed at different times for theſe ſixteen years; and it has added great ſatisfaction to receive intelligence of their hiſtory, of how they have been taken, and where, &c.

A hern was taken ſome years ſince (and ſix or ſeven years after flown in this country) at Alicant. Another, after being ringed eleven years, was taken by the Emperor of Germany, in Germany, in hawking. Several have been ſhot, in divers parts of England, and ſeveral more may be heard of half a century hence.

A gyr falcon was brought from Norway, which, Sweden excepted, is the only part where that ſpecies of hawks breed, notwithſtanding the ignorance of zoologiſts makes them aſſert the contrary. This gyr hawk being ill, was fed, and turned off, ringed, at Newmarket; and was, in four months after, taken by one of Colonel Thornton's falconers in Norway.

This to ſtrangers may appear curious: but when it is conſidered that nature has ordained that they ſhall live on the largeſt game, ſuch as geeſe, hares, &c. and they muſt periſh where ſmaller kinds are not to be had, that induces them, as ſoon as they can, to get home. And a hawk, though ill, by the benefit of acting to the orders of nature (the beſt phyſician) never fails to recover herſelf when at liberty to follow her natural bent. That matter is ſo clear, it admits of no doubt: and in ſimilar inſtances many extraordinary ſtories of birds may be eaſily accounted for: but what gives them that ſagacity never was known. Poſſibly the great Orderer of Nature has ordered it to be beyond the ingenuity of man to diſcover.

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

Gentlemen,

According to your deſire, I ſend you the particulars of my running as under:

In the year 1738, I ran at Birmingham, four miles for 100 guineas a-ſide, againſt Thomas Mills, who was obliged to give in at the two miles end.—The next was upon Uttoxeter High-wood, againſt Samuel Traunter, for 50 guineas each, whom I beat.—The next was at Nottingham, againſt William Auſtin, four miles, for 100 guineas each.—The next was at Cheſterfield, againſt John Allen, four miles, for 100 guineas each, I gave him ten ſcore yards up hill at the ſtart, and beat him 25 in.—The next was with John Stell, one mile, for 50 guineas each, upon Bakewell-moore.—The next was upon the Currough of Kildare, in Ireland, one mile, for 50 guineas each; reſted one hour, and ſtarted again, four miles, for 50 guineas more; all which engagements I victoriouſly completed. I have ran ſeveral other races, but the above are all the matches. Though I ſay I never was beat in my life, I ran twenty half miles upon trial, in fifty-ſix minutes and ten ſeconds.

The above are moſt of the particulars, and I ran the four miles at Cheſterfield in twenty minutes and ten ſeconds.

I remain

Your humble ſervant,

Tho. Trundley.

Moreton, near Uttoxeter,
March 19, 1794.

Method

METHOD *of Destroying* HARES *by the* HARE PIPE.

THE country of Xenophon is still famous for hare-hunting, and the modern Athenians have not degenerated from their ancestors, as will appear from the following extract from Chandler's Travels into Greece. The same extract describes a mode of killing hares, formerly practised by poachers in this kingdom, which will explain the meaning of hare-pipes; a device mentioned in old law-books, and deputations to game-keepers. Though Chandler does not mention it to be an imitation of the call between male and female in breeding season, yet his narrative clearly ascertains it, by stating the particular month in which it is practised; and that one killed by his company was big with young.

"Hares are exceedingly numerous. Calling is practised, in still weather, from the latter end of May to about the middle of August. Three or four men in a company stand silent and concealed in a thicket, with guns pointed in different directions. When all are ready, the caller applies two of his fingers to his lips, and sucking them, at first slowly, and then faster, produces a squeaking sound; when the hares, within hearing, rush to the spot. In this manner many are slaughtered in a day. One of my companions, with Lombardi, a Turk, and a Greek or two, who were adepts; killed eleven, among which was a female big with young. These animals are said to assemble together, to leap and play, at the full of the moon; and it is likely the shepherds, who live much abroad, observing and listening to them, learned to imitate their voices, to deceive, and make them thus foolishly abbet their own destruction."

To the EDITORS OF THE SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following lines are worth insertion in the Sporting Magazine, I shall be happy to see them appear as soon as convenient.

A. B.

Reading, March 2, 1794.

THE VETERINARY COLLEGE has ever appeared to me an object of great national utility. From my residence in the country, opportunities of gaining information concerning it, have not been so frequent as I could wish; but relying on the candour of your readers, I shall beg leave, through the medium of your entertaining Miscellany, to offer a few remarks that suggested themselves to me, on reading your 13th and 16th Numbers, which did not, till within these few days, fall into my hands, when I could not help being surprised at meeting with some observations, written in an evasive manner, where the author, after allowing the undertaking to be attended with some good, makes use of many sophistical arguments, and preponderates very much in its dispraise. Is it not astonishing, that an institution so conducive to the welfare of this country; an institution approved of, and supported by some of the first personages in the kindom; which was erected with a view to emancipate the noble object of its foundation from the gloomy *claw* of

of *ignorance*, and to place it under the care of a medical and ſcientific profeſſion, ſhould meet with an *adverſary* who, under the cloak of approbation, covers his fallacious reaſoning, and endeavours to ſubvert ſo patriotic an attempt! What can induce him to do this? What can actuate a man to exult at the ſtruggles of ſo laudable an eſtabliſhment?—Nothing, ſurely, but *ſelf-intereſt.* After indulging many *ſcurrilous* and *opprobious* reflections, couched in the moſt *pompous* terms, which, far from having the deſired effect, will certainly convince the thinking part of mankind, it is an undertaking that will reſcue this country from an imputation it has unfortunately laboured under already too long: he ſuppoſes, and, in fact, adviſes parents not to be ſo *weak* as to give their children a liberal education, with a view of their becoming, what he calls "*Knights of the Anvil*;" but does he ſuppoſe, gentlemen bred to the profeſſion, will ſubmit to the beating of iron, the ſhoeing of horſes, or any other dirty or diſagreeable employment? Is it not their department to ſtudy the nature of the horſe, and attend diſſections of that valuable animal, under celebrated and learned men; and cannot the inferior offices be performed by labourers, under their direction, without their actual or manual aſſiſtance? Can any thing be more *abſurd or diabolical*; *abſurd*, as it recommends gentlemen not to educate their ſons for a profeſſion where there is, perhaps, a greater field for improvement and emolument, than in any we are acquainted with: *diabolical*, as it tends to nip the bloſſoms of an inſtitution, by attempting to alienate ſtudents and younger minds from it, which, notwithſtanding his efforts, will, moſt probably, one day or other, bebecome the ornament and boaſt of Britain.

He mentions, as the foundation of his objections, the death of the Profeſſor, Mr. Sain Bel, and the learned Mr. J. Hunter; and ſays, "the College has received a *final blow*;" but ſeems doubtful whether the *loſs* of the above gentlemen was the occaſion of this misfortune, or the *opening* ſome *ſtables* in the neighbourhood, under the title of an "*Equeſtrian Receptacle* and *Operative Farriery*," by a *gentleman* of *diſtinguiſhed merit* as a *veterinarian writer!*—If I may here be permitted to give my opinion, allowing it to have received a *final blow*, I ſhould rather think was the effect of the FORMER—*not* the *latter* cauſe. 'Tis true, indeed, the College ſuſtained a great loſs from theſe two ſanguine ſupporters; but to ſuppoſe this loſs, great as it is, totally irreparable, is equally *vague* with *his* other obſervations. He likewiſe accuſes the committee for improperly regulating the pupils and internal affairs; from want of experience, the regulations were not perhaps, ſo wiſe as they ſhould have been, but did he ever know a firſt attempt ſimilar to this, ſucceed without ſome little diſorder? Can he expect an inſtitution that has been ſhamefully neglected here, for many centuries, to exiſt without ſome trifling flaw, for a "*carping critic*," to paraphraſe on?—Certainly not! And whatever the improprieties of the internal affairs may be, there is no doubt, from the abilities of the gentlemen who form the committee, and the profeſſors who were lately elected, but they will, the earlieſt

earliest opportunity, be remedied.

I shall close these cursory remarks with observing, however *delicate* the author may be in expressing *his* objections; or however *ably* he may draw a veil over them, I hope they will always be DETECTED and REFUTED, as they certainly *aim* at the destruction of an ESTABLISHMENT which, I sincerely wish may continue, to reflect HONOUR on its FOUNDERS, and fulfil the expectations of its numerous ADVOCATES.

ON HUNTING.

LETTER XII.

FOX HUNTING.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

TOWARDS the conclusion of my last, I promised you some observations on the stile of hunting, &c. and shall endeavour to perform my promise according to the best of my ability. Hunters, in general, wish to see their hounds run in a good stile. A pack of harriers, indeed, may kill a fox, but they cannot kill him in the stile in which he ought to be killed: they must hunt him down. Sportsmen who mean to tire him out, must expect to tire themselves also: few people wish a chase to be less than one hour, or to exceed two. It will seldom be longer, unless there be a fault in the day, the huntsman, or the hounds: it should be short, sharp, and decisive.

There is no very material difference in the speed of hounds of the same size; the great difference is in the head they carry; and, that they may run well together, too many old hounds should not be kept: after five or six seasons, they generally do more harm than good.

Changing from the hunted fox to a fresh one, is a disagreeable circumstance to a pack of hounds, and requires all the observation and ingenuity that a man is capable of to guard against it. Could a fox-hound distinguish a hunted fox, as the deer-hound does the deer that is blown, fox-hunting would be perfect. Certain rules are to be observed by the huntsman: he should always listen to his hounds, while they are running in cover, and be particularly attentive to the head-most hounds: he should be constantly on his guard against a skirter; for if there are two scents, he must be wrong.

It is generally found that the best scent is least likely to be that of the hunted fox: and, as the fox will not suffer hounds to run up to him while he has it in his power to prevent it, it is almost a certainty, when foxes are hallooed early in the day, that they are fresh foxes. The hounds mostly to be depended on in such cases, are the hard-running line-hunting dogs; or such as the huntsman observed to have the lead, before there arose any doubt of changing. Should a fox break over an open country, it must not be concluded that he is hard run; for they seldom have recourse to that expedient, unless they are a great way before the hounds. Nor is it often that they run up the wind, when they have been long hunted, and grow weak. In these situations, a good ear, and nice observation, is required in the huntsman.

When the hounds divide into two parts, the whipper-in should

attend

attend to the huntſman, and wait for his halloo, before he attempts to ſtop either; by inattention to ſuch a circumſtance, the hounds are frequently ſtopped at both places, and both the foxes loſt. If they have many ſcents, and there is no poſſibility of aſcertaining which is the hunted fox, let thoſe be ſtopped that are fartheſt down the wind, as they can hear the others, and will reach them ſooneſt: ſtopping thoſe which are up the wind would, in ſuch a caſe, be uſeleſs.

When the hounds are at check, let every one be motionleſs and quiet: whippers-in are often, at this time, coming on with the tail-hounds: they ſhould not halloo to them, when the hounds are at fault. The huntſman, at a check, had better let his hounds alone; or content himſelf with holding them forward, without taking them off their noſes.

The huntſman ſhould always encourage the hounds to make their own caſt; after which it is his buſineſs to aſſiſt them further; but, except in particular caſes, they ſhould not be caſt ſo long as they are inclined to hunt. A regular caſt ſhould always be made before a knowing one is adopted: if that ſhould not ſucceed, the huntſman ſhould be at liberty to follow his own opinion, and proceed as obſervation and genius may direct.

When hounds are at fault, gentlemen are too apt themſelves to prolong it: they ſhould ſtop their horſes ſome diſtance behind the hounds, and remain as ſilent as poſſible: they ſhould cautiouſly avoid riding before the hounds, or over the ſcent: they ſhould never meet a hound in the face, unleſs with a deſign to ſtop him. Should a ſportſman be before the hounds, he ſhould turn his horſe's head the way they are going, get out of their tracts, and let them paſs him.

In heathy countries, foxes frequently run the roads in dry weather; when gentlemen, by riding cloſe upon the hounds, may drive them miles without any ſcent. High-mettled fox-hounds have little inclination to ſtop, whilſt horſes are following at their heels.

As my hounds are at fault, permit me to take my leave, leſt a longer epiſtle might induce you to believe me in their ſituation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your's, &c.

Acastus.

Anecdote *of* Mr. Beckford's *Huntſman*; *related by himſelf.*

A LATE huntſman of mine, was a great ſlip-ſlop, and always called ſucceſſively, *ſucceſsfully.* One day, when he had been out with the young hounds, I ſent for him in, and aſked what ſport he had had, and how the hounds behaved——"Very great ſport, Sir, and no hounds could behave any better."—"Did you run him long?"—"They ran him, and pleaſe your honour, upwards of three hours *ſucceſsfully.*"—"So, then, you *did* kill him?"—"*Oh, no, Sir, we loſt him at laſt.*"

Prognostics *of the* Weather *from* Vegetables.

MOST vegetables expand their flowers and down, in ſunſhiny weather, and towards the evening; and, againſt rain, cloſe them again; eſpecially at the beginning of their flowering, when

when the ſeeds are tender and ſenſible. This is viſible enough in the down of dandelion, and other downs; and particularly in the flowers of pimpernel, the opening and ſhutting of which, Gerard obſerves, are the countryman's *weather-wiſer*; whereby he tells the weather of the following day. The rule is, if the flowers are cloſe ſhut up, it betokens rain or *foul weather*: if they are ſpread abroad, *fair weather*. *Ger. Herb. Lib.* 2.

Lord Bacon informs us, that the ſtalk of trefoil ſwells againſt rain, and grows more upright: and the like may be obſerved, though not ſo ſenſibly, in the ſtalks of moſt other plants. He adds that, in the ſtubble-fields there is found a ſmall red flower, called by the country-people *wincopipe*, which, opening in a morning, is a certain indication of a fine day.

It is far from being inconceivable that vegetables ſhould be affected with the ſame cauſes which affect the weather: if we conſider them as ſo many hydrometers, and thermometers, conſiſting of an infinite number of tracheæ, or air veſſels; by which they have an immediate communication with the air, and partake of its moiſture and heat, &c. Theſe tracheæ are very viſible in the leaf of the ſcabioſe, vine, &c.

Hence it is that all wood, even the hardeſt and moſt ſolid, ſwells in moiſt weather, the vapours eaſily inſinuating into their pores; eſpecially thoſe which are the higheſt and dryeſt. On this account we derive a very extraordinary uſe of wood for breaking rocks and mill-ſtones. The method at the quarries is this: having cut a rock into a cylinder, they divide that into ſeveral leſſer cylinders, by making holes at the proper diſtances round the great one: they fill theſe holes with ſo many pieces of ſallow wood, dried in an oven, which, in *moiſt weather*, becoming impregnated with the humid corpuſcles of the air, ſwell; and, like wedges, break or cleave the rock into ſeveral ſtones.

When there are but few nuts, cold and wet harveſts generally follow; but when there is a great ſhew of them, hot, heavy, and dry harveſts ſucceed.

If the oak bears much maſt, it foreſhows a long and ſevere winter. The ſame has been obſerved of hips and haws.

If broom is full of flowers, it uſually ſignifies plenty.

If the earth, or any moiſt or fenny places, yield any extraordinary ſcents or ſmells, rain is preſaged.

If dews lie long in the morning on the graſs, &c. fair weather is denoted; but if they riſe or vaniſh ſuddenly, and early in the morning, rain may be expected.

Method *of* Hunting *the* Ass *in the* Kingdom *of* Quito.

A WARM climate is moſt favourable to the growth of the aſs. It ſeems probable that it was originally a native of Arabia and other parts of the eaſt. The deſerts of Lybia and Numidia, and many of the iſlands of the Archipelago, contain vaſt herds of wild aſſes, which run with ſuch amazing rapidity, that even the fleeteſt horſes of the country can hardly overtake them. They are chiefly caught by the natives on account of their fleſh, of which they make their moſt delicious repaſts: but the

the fleſh of the common, or tame aſs, is drier, tougher, and more diſagreeable than that of the horſe; Galen ſays it is even unwholeſome, but that its milk, on the contrary, is an approved remedy for certain diſorders.

The wild aſs is not ſtreaked like the zebra, with which it has often been confounded, nor is his form ſo beautiful; his figure reſembles that of the common aſs, his colour is brighter, and he has a white ſtreak extending from his head to his tail. The aſs, like the horſe, was originally imported into America by the Spaniards, where it has run wild, and become extremely numerous.

Ulloa informs us, that, in the kingdom of Quito, they hunt the aſſes in the following manner: a number of perſons on horſeback, attended by Indians on foot, form a large circle, in order to drive them into a narrow compaſs, where at full ſpeed they throw a nooſe over them, and having ſecured them with fetters leave them till the chaſe is over, which frequently continues for ſeveral days: they have all the ſwiftneſs of horſes, and are not to be retarded in their flight by precipices or declivities. When attacked they defend themſelves with their heels and mouths with ſuch activity, that, without ſlackening their pace, they often maim ſome of their purſuers.

The aſs produced in this country is much inferior in ſize and beauty to thoſe of Spain, and other warm countries: in Guinea, they are larger and more beautiful than their horſes. In Perſia they have two kinds—the one ſlow and heavy, uſed for carrying burthens; the other nimble, ſmooth, and ſtately, calculated principally for the ſaddle. They are managed like horſes, and, like them, taught to amble; their noſtrils are generally ſplit, that their breathing may not be impeded: forty or fifty pounds is no uncommon price for one of them.

We are told by Holingſhead, that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there were no aſſes in this country, nor is it certainly known how ſoon after they might be introduced. At preſent, however, they are naturalized in this kingdom, and their utility is acknowledged.

The gentleneſs, patience, and perſeverance of this animal are without example: he is temperate in eating, and contents himſelf with the coarſeſt, and moſt neglected herbage; he prefers the plantain, however, to every other herb in the paſture. In his water he is ſingularly nice, and delights in the tranſparent ſtream. He is ſo unwilling to wet his feet, that, even when he has a burthen upon his back, he will turn aſide to avoid a dirty ſpot upon the road.

In proportion to his ſize, the aſs is ſtronger than the horſe; but more ſluggiſh, ſtubborn, and untractable. He enjoys a better ſtate of health than the horſe; and, of all other quadrupeds, is leaſt infeſted with lice or other vermin; owing perhaps to the extreme hardneſs and dryneſs of his ſkin. For the ſame reaſon he is probably leſs ſenſitive of the goads of the whip, or the ſtinging of flies and other inſects.

He comes to perfection in about three or four years, and lives to the age of twenty or twenty-five; he ſleeps leſs than the horſe, and never lies down for that purpoſe but when he is much

much fatigued. The female goes eleven months with young, and seldom produces more than one at a time.

This useful creature is usually rewarded for his services with the hardest of fare and cruel treatment. Generally the property of the poor, he partakes of their wants and their distresses: but, by due cultivation and care in his education, he might be usefully and profitably employed in variety of domestic matters: and in many cases supply the place of a horse, to which only it is second, though usually degraded into the most useless and neglected of domestic quadrupeds.

To Angle for Tench.

THE Tench is treated with the utmost disrespect by ancient writers. Ausonius, who first mentions it, gives it the vilest of characters: a certain proof of the capriciousness of taste; for that fish, which is now much esteemed, was, in his days, the repast only of the *canaille.* The Germans, by way of contempt, call a tench a shoemaker; and even Gesner asserts that it is insipid and unwholesome.

Some have called it the physician of the fish, its slime being of so healing a quality, that the wounded apply it as a styptic. The voracious pike * is so sensible of its sovereign virtue, that he will not hurt a tench, though he will seize any other fish of his own size that comes in his way. The haunts of the tench are chiefly in ponds, among weeds: he thrives very indifferently in clear waters, and delights to feed in foul ones; yet his flesh is nourishing and delicious. Such was Mr. Walton's opinion, which we shall give in his own words:—"This fish, that carries a natural balsam in him to cure both himself and others, loves yet to feed in very foul water, and amongst weeds; and yet I am sure he eats pleasantly, and doubtless you will think so too if you taste him."

It is not common for a tench to exceed four or five pounds in weight, though we have heard of one that has weighed ten pounds. Salvianus mentions some approaching to the weight of twenty pounds. The tench is thick and short, in proportion to its length; the scales are very small, and covered with slime: the irrides are red; and there is sometimes, but not always, a small barb hanging at each corner of the mouth. The colour of the back is dusky; the dorsal and ventral fins of the same colour; the head, sides, and belly of a greenish cast, most beautifully mixed with gold, which is in its greatest splendour when the fish is in its highest season. The tail is even at the end, and very broad.

They spawn about the middle of July, and are best in season from the beginning of September to the end of May: they will bite during all the hot months, but are best taken in April and May. There are no better baits for this fish than a middle-sized lob-worm, or red worm, well scoured, a gentle, a young wasp-grub

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* The pike, fell tyrant of the liquid plain,
With rav'nous waste devours his fellow train:
Yet, howsoe'er with raging famine pin'd,
The tench he spares, a salutary kind:
Hence too the perch, a like voracious brood,
Forbears to make this gen'rous race his food.

grub boiled, or a green worm shook from the boughs of trees. Fish very near the ground, and if you bait with gentles, throw in a few at the taking of every fish; which will draw them to your hook, and keep them together. A paste, made with strong scented oils, or with the inside of a roll and honey, are also excellent baits for the tench.

Hints to Horsemen.

Correcting, Cherishing, and Mounting.

It is generally acknowledged that good natural properties may be improved by art, and perfected by practice: nature, art, and practice, therefore, form the accomplished horseman: a person thus qualified need not be instructed when and how to assist the animal on which he rides; but there are some horses so perverse and untractable, that all his skill and labour will be ineffectual. On the other hand, should a person possess a horse of a good disposition, without judgment to manage him properly, he will probably lose all the pleasure and advantage of the noblest animal in the creation.

It is the unskilfulness of riders which occasions many of those complaints which we hear so frequently made of restive and ungovernable horses, and of their performances: should a young sportsman get a horse that he is unable to manage, he expects to tame him by hunting till he tires him; not considering that after such a creature has had a week's rest, he will be as ungovernable as before. It is a very just observation, that a man cannot manage a horse at all, if he cannot manage him when in full spirits.

Managed horses, which are taught their motions only for parade, are not fit for hunting, or the road, and therefore are not entitled to notice in these general observations on riding.

Corrections and cherishings are the principal aids to render a horse agreeable, tractable, and useful; and these may properly be reduced to the three following heads, viz. the *voice*, the *hand*, and the *leg*.

To cheer and assist the horse with your voice, a mild endearing tone is necessary, and such terms as, *poor fellow*, *well done*, *good boy*, &c. should be used. Harsh or terrible expressions displease or frighten him; but mild soothing accents, accompanied with an inclination or bending of the body towards the horse, will have a good effect.

The *hand* is of great importance in the management of a horse. By gently patting, clapping, or stroking him on the neck or shoulders, you please and cherish him. The hand is also sometimes well employed in mildly and gently striking him with a whip, &c. but if it is laid on with any degree of severity, he is corrected to his displeasure. By slackening the bridle in your hand, your horse is also eased and cherished; for you correct and oppress him when you draw it hard.

If a rider would wish to mount a horse properly, he must not stand near the croup or hinder part of him, with the bridle at a great length in his right hand; for he would then be liable to be kicked before he mounted, or the horse might go on and play his gambols after he was mounted, before he could shorten the reins

reins to prevent him. If you would mount with eafe and fafety, ftand rather before the ftirrup than behind it: then with your left hand, take the bridle fhort, and the mane together, help yourfelf into the ftirrup with your right, fo that in mounting your toe does not touch the horfe: Your foot being in the ftirrup, raife yourfelf till you face the fide of the horfe, and look directly acrofs to the faddle. Then, with your right hand, lay hold of the hinder part of the faddle; and, with your left, lift yourfelf into it. Thus, having a fure hold with both hands, you may either difmount fafely, or throw your leg over, and feat yourfelf, without danger of difturbing your animal.

On getting off the horfe's back, hold the bridle and mane in the fame manner as when you mounted: hold the pommel of the faddle with your right hand, to raife yourfelf; bring your right leg over the horfe's back, let your right hand hold the hind part of the faddle, and ftand a moment on your ftirrup, juft as when you mounted: but take care that, in difmounting, you do not bend your right knee, left the animal fhould be touched with the fpur.

Always hold the bridle at a proper length: let your pofition on the faddle be fquare, and the purchafe of your bridle fuch as not to pull your fhoulder; and let your body be in fuch an even pofture as if you held a rein in each hand. Grafp the reins with your hand, putting your little finger between them: your hand muft be perpendicular, with the thumb uppermoft, upon the bridle. Your wrift fhould bend a little outward, and, in pulling the bridle, lift your hand towards your breaft. Hold your bridle in your hand at fuch a length, that, if the horfe fhould ftumble, you can raife his head, and fupport it with your arms, by throwing your body backwards. If you give the rein too much length, the rifing of the horfe may occafion your falling backwards.

If you know your horfe perfectly well, and that you can fafely truft him with a flackened rein, extend your arm, but not your fhoulder, a little forward, but keep the rein at the ufual length: thus, while you are giving the horfe his way, you will always have the power of checking him. *(To be continued.)*

HYDE PARK.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

AT a time when every art is afpiring to the moft unfullied excellence, when RIDING MASTERS, FENCING MASTERS, and FRENCH PROFICIENTS fpring up like *mufhrooms* in every part of the metropolis; and hold forth a pompous difplay of their various perfections in the diurnal productions of the prefs, foliciting public patronage and pecuniary gratification; furely I may be permitted, through the impartial communication of your fafhionable vehicle, to offer, divefted of every idea of *reward* or *compenfation*, the moft difinterefted and patriotic inftructions for appearing with *eclât* in the moft brilliant and *polite affemblage* of the metropolis or its vicinity. This polite affemblage of FRIVOLITY and FASHION, unbounded *confidence*, unprecedented *pride*, and

and unequalled *effrontery*, cannot be exceeded under what the vulgar denominate the "*canopy of heaven.*" It is impoſſible for any man of reflection, well read in the book of life, with all its minutiæ of annotations imprinted by the hand of reflection, to ſurvey the infinite number of objects bearing the prominent features of rationality, induſtriouſly rendering themſelves marks of the moſt ſovereign contempt, without almoſt arraigning the diſpenſations of Providence, and wondering why we are permitted to become ſo readily the voluntary agents, and perſonal evidence of our inſtintive folly and invincible depravity. Without entering into a tedious ſentimental animadverſion upon the variegated perſons, or qualifications of the heterogeneous particles, that ſo frequently come forward with an intent to conſtitute the temporary incorporation of *folly* and *inſignificance*; I muſt beg to introduce ſuch a chain of inſtructions for the uſe of juvenile and inexperienced equeſtrians, as cannot fail to render them ſome of the moſt *popular* characters in the long liſt of hebdomadal *undeſcribables*. It cannot be unknown to you, gentlemen, who ſport your own *boots*, in all your pedeſtrian exploits, that "*worſe the luck*," ſays *you! boots* are much more plenty than HORSES, and that a HORSE is the moſt eſſential prelude to taking *a ride*, either to *admire*, or become the ſubject of *admiration*. The certainty of a BUCEPHALUS, a PEGASUS, or ſome ſuch fiery ſteed (as we move now only upon *blood*) being aſcertained, the elegance of accoutrements, the brilliancy of external ornament, conſtituting propriety, and an inſurance of reſpect, become the rotational ſubjects of conſideration, and in this the fabricators of *ſaddles*, and *bridles*, *breeches*, and *boots*, aſſiſt without the leaſt reluctance, under the faſcinating influence of a pecuniary prompter. If you are going to purchaſe a horſe for the occaſion, you need give yourſelf no trouble to make unneceſſary inquiries upon the excellent qualities of the horſe you have the leaſt deſire to purchaſe; ſtate your wants to *a dealer*, and without ceremony, throw yourſelf upon his *judgment* and *generoſity*; there can be *no doubt* but they are all men of too much INTEGRITY to attempt *impoſition*, or *practiſe* deception. Should it ſo happen, that the preſent demand for the army renders your purſuit unſucceſsful amongſt THE DEALERS, you have a *ſure* and *ſafe* reſource at ſome of the faſhionable *repoſitories*, where a man of *tolerable penetration* cannot eſcape picking up a *d——d good bargain*, admirably calculated for a ride *once a week* in Hyde Park. This part of the preparation being adjuſted, it will be neceſſary that your arrangement does not betray a ſterility of invention, or pecuniary poverty, by a want of uniformity; you muſt be ſtrictly conſiſtent to become eminently diſtinguiſhed, and that this object of aggrandizement may be eaſier attainable, let the *tout en ſemble* of your PERSON and APPEARANCE bear a ſtamp of the moſt *outrè* ſingularity.

As *leather* breeches have too much the diſtinguiſhing trait of ruſticity, and give a *Sunday's ſportſman* from the *metropolis* too predominant a colouring of the maſculine gender, it will be more in character, to *wrap yourſelf up* in a KERSEYMERE, or ſome ſuch pliable fabric, that may not tend to counteract your efforts to diſ-

play

play a certain portion of *ease*, *grace*, and *agility*, before the ladies, either in your EQUESTRIAN EXPLOITS, or a more retired situation. These should be accompanied by BOOTS of peculiar neatness, and from the hands of the most celebrated maker, as it will become a part of your eternal practice, to sport the *ungenerous* idea that you are the "aut Cæsar, aut nullus" of the day, and exceed all human nature in your person and possessions. SPURS exceeding, in the length of their necks, all possibility of competition, will not only display their own excellence in the creation of *envy*, but prove of the most infinite utility; as they are not merely calculated to give your horse additional *stimulus*, if unluckily *too tardy* in progress, but may be brought into use, hitherto put but little in practice, by stopping him in any *unexpected career*; with the additional consolation, that by sticking them close to *his sides*, you constitute *a fulcrum* in the CENTER, that must totally prevent every possibility of *preponderation*, and this becomes a matter very *seriously* entitled to consideration. Thus personally equipped, you advert to the state of your steed, where some taste must be displayed to excite surprise, and insure admiration; after having submitted to your sadler, the kind of *tree* best adapted to the shape and make of your horse, you must be peremptory in your order for *a breast plate* before, and *a crupper* behind, without both which, no CITY SPORTSMAN ever presumes to take the *road* or *field*; experimentally convinced the want of *either* may accidentally lay *a wiser* man than *himself* in the *dirt*. *Three* girths will be also much neater than *two*, as a light carcassed horse never looks better than when *hooped* like a *butter-firkin*.

Thus prepared for a triumphal entry to the seat of grandeur, have, if possible, a hired servant and hack for the day, and by way of acquiring additional admiration, stick *a cockade* in his hat, assuming some share of MILITARY consequence, it will at least convince the friends of administration you are willing to *fight* the *battles* of your COUNTRY; and if they have not penetration to *see*, and VIRTUE to REWARD your *patriotism*, by an appointment equal to your *merit*, they must be evidently remiss in their pretended attachment to the interests of government, and you have the inexpressible consolation of having done your duty, and deserved well of your country. In your embarkation, that you may insure *ease* with a greater portion of *safety*, it will be right you ride with your stirrup leathers two or three holes too long, that you may not only swing your legs about as if they were totally indifferent, and did not belong to you, but in case of an *accidental slip*, there will be the less chance of hanging in the stirrup. A *loose rein* is also a prominent and useful feature of FASHION and *convenience*; for, should a horse be subject to a prevalent passion for *falling*, he has certainly a greater chance of *getting up* with *alacrity*, than when under the hard hand of restraint and disquietude.

These advantages being admitted, and your entré made amongst the variegated crew of pantomimic adventurers, self-preservation is so truly the first principle of human institution, that you have only to attend to your own safety, and let the multitude take care of *themselves*; it is *the business* to SEE YOU are

come, and their *duty* to get out of your *way*. It would betray a very shallow and superficial state of your *courage*, as well as your *prudence*, to pass through the crowd in a sermonizing, psalm singing, mechanical trot, as if conscious of your inferiority you was half determined to solicit contributions from *charity*; on the contrary, you will command accumulated *obedience*, by assuming a degree of power, to which, by no rules, but the rules of FASHION or *impertinence*, you are by any means entitled. The *pusillanimity* of the multitude is, however, upon these occasions so palpably predominant, that you may be assured any insult, artfully varnished with a quantum sufficit of effrontery, may be put in practice with *impunity*. Convinced of this, by the picture of precedent, you may put your *charger* into his second rate without a fear of opposition, and to secure the reputation of an *easy reader*, be sure to pay no respect to the head of your horse; but as you ride *one* way look *another*, not more to observe who *admires you*, than to oblige others to give place to a man of so *much consequence*, who has lived too long in the world to take care of those whose sole business it is, or should be, to take care of *themselves*. Should any puppy be so uncommonly stupid, or any contemplative man so unfashionably diffident or remiss, as to sustain a shock, and encounter * *a fall*, by the force of exertions in *support of your health*, you have only slightly to "*Je vous demande pardon*" with a degree of *consistent ease*, and proceed to *a repetition*, if the *excrements* of *nature* are divested of the precaution so evidently necessary to their own preservation. Having continued your gallops till your horse is in a high state of *perspiration*, and nature nearly *exhausted*, you may then condescend to pass the *line in review*; and, being a PHYSIOGNOMIST, you will soon discover, by an analization of features, and a retrospective reference to the *immortality* of STERNE, which the ladies admire most, your *perseverance*, or your *humanity*. Mr. Editor, having, I am afraid, obtruded too much upon your kindness, by extending the subject beyond the limits of your convenience, I must beg permission, should this become entitled to insertion, to trouble you with a collateral continuation in a future number; being, with great respect,

Your constant Reader,
GEOFRY GAMBADO.

* This circumstance actually Happened to a Mr. H. in Red Lion Square, who being rode against and knocked down, obtained no compensation, but the consolatory effusion of *politesse* so emphatically delineated in the quotation.

SWINLEY LODGE,

THE official residence of the Earl of Sandwich, as Master of his Majesty's Stag-hounds, is situate upon Ascot Heath, about a mile south-west of the starting post, surrounded by hills, and sheltered by lofty trees, from such severity of the elements as is frequently experienced in situations so abstracted from rural association. Notwithstanding its sequestered aspect and remote erection in the middle of a dreary heath, it has every internal convenience to render it happily appropriate to the purpose for which it was originally intended. Exclusive of an excellent rustic mansion, possessing the room and requisites

requisites for which our buildings of former centuries are so easily distinguishable, it has annexed ranges of excellent stabling, commodious yards, domestic gardens (less in the stile of *ornament* than *utility*); paddocks applied solely to pasture for the reception of red deer, as well as various parcels of land, distinctly divided into the required proportions of meadow and arable, for the cultivation of such hay and corn of every kind as may be required upon the premises. To these accumulated conveniences, may be added the various fish ponds, which, with the live stock of every kind produced upon the premises, may be said to constitute an aggregate of the most luxurious gratification within a fenced circle of FERTILITY, two miles in circumference, though surrounded by one of the most *barren* spots in the universe, producing only *fuel* for the inhabitants of that and distant parishes, and *heath* for *brooms*: by manufacturing which, most of the neighbouring indigents obtain a livelihood. To this district, and its surrounding hills, His Majesty's herd of RED DEER appertain; here they breed, and being constantly fed, like the cattle more domesticated, in the severity of the winter season, they consider it their home, and become, to those they are accustomed to see, much less ferocious, and more associate, than can well be supposed of an animal so naturally wild, and so little subject to a personal survey from human visitants.

The present resident has given a life and spirit to the scene that it never possessed during the official career of either of the two last of his predecessors; for his liberal hospitality at home, and polite condescension in the field, had every advantage in succeeding the *penurious sterility* and *personal pomposity* of a Noble Lord, who for many years enjoyed the "POST OF HONOUR," and experimentally knew how much more gratifying it was to aristocratic dignity to be *feared* than be LOVED by a numerous train of official dependants apparently retained by *him*, but *paid* by the PEOPLE. The place itself was originally supposed, like the huntsman's, to be a situation for life, independent of political considerations; the circumstances of late years have given palpable contradiction to that opinion, and proved it to be a contingent dependence upon the caprice of an individual, or the fluctuations of ministry. The great change in the *coalition* ousted LORD BATEMAN, who had held it so long uninterrupted, that he not only stood considered, but *considered himself* the King of the Forest, his Majesty at this time having absolutely *never hunted a day* with his own hounds; this change in the Ministry made room for the EARL of JERSEY, who continued to preside during that short-lived administration; at the dissolution of which, the EARL of SANDWICH, then Lord Hinchinbroke, became appointed to a post that he has continued to fill, not only with the most unsullied DIGNITY and HONOUR, but with the most flattering instances of public approbation from his Majesty, and the universal declarations of *gratitude* from every department upon the ROYAL CHASE, over whom it is his Lordship's happiness to preside. As it is unequivocally admitted, so it cannot be inapplicable to make it generally known, that SWINLEY LODGE had never, till

till the present possessor became its resident, acquired the zenith of OLD ENGLISH HOSPITALITY. The salary originally annexed to the office being very inferior to other parts of the Royal establishment, has been repeatedly increased, and even of late years from twelve hundred to two thousand pounds per annum. Of this stipend a part is in consideration of a public breakfast, for gentlemen who may chuse to partake of such honour and refreshment at SWINLEY LODGE, previous to the commencement of the CHASE. A domestic of his Lordship's constantly attends, and makes offer of such accommodation to every gentleman who appears in the court, or the front of the house. The origin, however, of this etiquette not being generally known, it is considered by visitors a matter of *courtesy*, totally uninformed it is a matter of *right* from the true source of PRINCELY HOSPITALITY. The doors of this mansion were for a great number of years, previous to the sanction of his Majesty's presence with the hounds, doomed to turn reluctantly upon their *rusty hinges*, and every apartment equally strange to the exhilirating steams of ROAST SIRLOIN, or the vibrating echo of the *cork* in its momentary expansion from long contraction and confinement. In this scene of dreary sterility, public *depredation* kept pace with *private penury*, as the *then* MASTER of the HOUNDS was seldom *seen* oftner than necessity or *decency* required, the spot was pervaded by a general display of impending *poverty* and *destruction*; the county paper was eternally replete with advertisements, proclaimieg rewards for the discovery of offenders killing the deer; breaking down and stealing the fences, with a long list of various enormities, that have been obliterated from the earliest hour of the present appointment, and that part of the sporting world, who are happily resident in Windsor Forest and its environs, will join with, and justify us in the assertion, that every part of his Majesty's hunting department was never in so high a state of excellence and perfection as under the indefatigable exertions of the present MASTER of the STAG HOUNDS, whose hospitality at home, politeness in private life, and affability in the field, has not only justly endeared him to every rank of society, but rendered it the predominant wish of every sportsman, who has had the happiness of joining his Lordship in the chase, or the honour of drawing a chair at the hospitality of his table, that the *resignation* of his *office* may take place only with the EXTINCTION of LIFE.

N. B. It may not be inapplicable to avail ourselves of the present opportuniy to remind our readers, that the great annual chase with his Majesty's hounds is continued on EASTER MONDAY; in which week they hunt on *Monday*, *Thursday*, and *Saturday*.

The NATURAL HISTORY *of the* PARTRIDGE.

THE partridge is found in every country, and in every climate; as well in the frozen regions about the pole, as the torrid tracts under the equator. It even seems to adapt itself to the nature of the climate where it may happen to reside. In Greenland,

Greenland, the partridge, which is brown in ſummer, begins to take a covering ſuited to the ſeaſon: as ſoon as the icy winter begins its reign, it is then cloathed with a warm down beneath, and its outer plumage aſſumes the colour of the ſnow, among which it ſearches for its food.

The manners of the partridge, in moſt circumſtances, reſemble thoſe of poultry in general; but their cunning ſurpaſſes thoſe of the larger kinds. As they live in the very neighbourhood of their enemies, they have perhaps more frequent occaſion to put their little arts in practice, and learn, by habit, the means of evaſion to procure their ſafety: when a dog, or any other formidable animal, approaches their neſt, the female uſes every artifice to draw him away; ſhe keeps juſt before him, pretends to be incapable of flying, feebly hops up, and then falls down before him, but never goes ſo far off as to diſcourage her purſuer: at length, when ſhe has completely drawn him away from her ſecret treaſure, ſhe at once takes wing, and leaves him to gaze after her in deſpair.

When the danger is over, and the dog withdrawn, ſhe gives notice to her young, which aſſemble inſtantly at her call, and follow where ſhe conducts them. There are generally from ten to fifteen in a covey; and, if unmoleſted, they live from fifteen to ſeventeen years.

Of partridges there are more than twenty ſpecies, foreign and domeſtic, but the whole of them may be arranged under two diviſions, the grey, and the red: the red partridge is the largeſt of the two, and frequently perches upon trees; the grey, which is the common partridge in England, is moſt prolific, and always keeps upon the ground.

The francolin, which is one of the moſt beautiful ſpecies of partridge, is very common in Barbary, and is frequently to be found in the South of Spain *.

The bare-necked partridge is a ſpecies with a hackle, reſembling that of a cock.

For the laws concerning partridges and pheaſants, the reader is referred to page 21 of this third Volume.

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I Tranſmit to you the following attempt at a general account of the exerciſe of the chaſe, in hopes of your favourable acceptance, if you deem it worthy of a place in your excellent Magazine, though it were only as an inducement to any of your readers, who have leiſure and inclination to proſecute the ſubject in a more maſterly manner. Your ingenious publication is in general requeſt and eſteem in all the country round the place where I live.

I am,
Yours, &c.
T.

March 12.

Historical Essay on the Chase.

IN all ages of the world, mankind have been attached to the

* Lempriere's Tour to Morocco, p. 93.

chaſe;

chase; not only in their rude and uncivilized state, when it may be more a matter of necessity than of choice: but even in the more polished periods of their history, we find that the stronger and more robust have followed it as a sport. Examples of this fact may be drawn from the records of the remotest ages of civil society. In the book of Genesis we read that Nimrod, the third in descent from Noah, was a mighty hunter, that is, eminently bold and dexterous, and indefatigable in that exercise. Ishmael, the son of Abraham, by Hagar, his female slave, took up his abode in the forests, when he became a skilful hunter. Esau was not less expert in this art. The people of Israel hunted in the wilderness. Sampson set fire to the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt it by means of the foxes he had taken, tying firebrands to their tails, and letting them run about the fields. David hunted the beasts that attacked the flocks of his father. And here, before I proceed, I shall take an opportunity of correcting a passage, misinterpreted in our vulgar translation of the Bible, 1 Sam. xvii. 34 and seq. "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear. And shall this, &c." Now, where is the sense of all this? But take it literally as it stands in the Hebrew, and its meaning is manifest and consistent. "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there would come a lion or a bear, and take a lamb out of the flock: and I would go after him, and smite him, and deliver it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I would catch him by his beard, and smite him, and slay him. Whether lion or bear, thy servant slew him. And shall this, &c."

Having cleared up this matter, I hope, to the satisfaction of my readers, for which I just stepped aside, I shall proceed. The writings of Moses, which transmit to us the real history of mankind, are in perfect agreement with the fabulous mythology for establishing the antiquity of the chase. It is an occupation of the deities in the pagan theology. Diana was the goddess of hunters; she was invoked on setting out for the chase; and the hunters, at their return, sacrificed to her the bow, the arrows, and the quiver. Apollo shared with her in the homage of the huntsmen. The art of training the dogs was ascribed to them both. Cephalus, the favourite goddess of hunting, excelled in the chase, and had for her companion the youthful Acteon, who took delight in the sports of the field. Apollo and Diana educated Chiron in the arts of the chase, because of his virtue and his courage.

Diana had so great an affection for her dogs, than on a solemn anniversary, at the end of every autumn, she crowned all those who had best performed their duty, and gave them names in conformity to their dispositions. Xenophon, in his book *de Venatione*, has carefully given the signification of many of these canine appellatives, as they were bestowed on the dogs of his time. Whoever is thoroughly acquainted with the language of the antient

tient Gauls, will know, that those of *Mirraud* of *Briffaud*, and others of the fame kind, by which, at prefent, the dogs in France are called, fignified neither more nor lefs than *Seizer*, which perhaps we have corrupted into *Cæfar*, *Spoiler*, &c. all denoting qualities proper to dogs.

The glory of having been the firft that trained dogs to the hunt, and of cultivating that art as a fcience, is attributed to Pollux; as his brother Caftor was the firft who broke horfes for the chafe of the ftag. Perfeus was held by the Greeks to be the oldeft hunter of antiquity, but Caftor and Pollux juftly difputed that honour with him. Hercules fought with the furious lion of the foreft of Nemea. Every one knows the hiftory of Adonis, and that of Meleager. Orion matched hounds in packs; and Hippolitus invented toils. The Greeks had a faying, that dogs badly broke were enough to make hunting hated and abhorred by them that loved it the moft.

Alexander the Great filled up the intervals of his military labours with the exercife of hunting. He had an old dog, in which he repofed fuch confidence, that he had him carried to the chafe; when they were at fault or embarraffed, he was fet on the ground, when he immediately did feats to the admiration of all; after which he was carefully carried home, and attended with peculiar obfervance.

It is related by Albert the Great, that Alexander charged Ariftotle to write a treatife on the chafe; and, for fupplying him with the expences this ftudy would coft him, he fent him a gratuity of eight hundred talents; and that he gave him a great number of huntsmen and fifhermen, to work under his orders, and to bring him, from all parts, whatever he might want as fubjects of obfervation.

Cyrus was very fond of hunting, and in thefe exercifes he was conftantly attended by the young lords of his court. In time of peace he even took with him the foldiers of his army, in order to form or inure them to the fatigues of war, to render them prompt on horfeback, dexterous, agile, and vigorous. He iffued orders to the governors of provinces frequently to lead out to the chafe, the young fatraps of their governments; he filled the honourable offices of the monarchy of Babylon with his huntfmen; he caufed parks to be laid out for the breaking of dogs; the antients had invented them for that purpofe, and for afforting the packs. Before the reign of Artaxerxes no one but the mafter had the right to kill or to maim the animal purfued; that prince permitted all who hunted with him to ftrike and to kill, if they could, the firft that they had in purfuit. However, it appears that this king made excurfions into the country, not fo much for the fake of hunting as for the benefit of the air, fince the young Cyrus, to induce the Lacedæmonians to league with him againft his brother, alledged, among other reafons, that he was not a hunter.

(To be continued in our next.)

REVIEW OF A NEW PUBLICATION.

FARO *and* ROUGE *et* NOIR, *the Mode of Playing, and Explanation,*

nation of the Terms used at both Games, with a Table of the Chances against the Punters, extracted from De Moivre, *to which is prefixed a* History *of* Cards, *London: Printed for* J. Debrett, *opposite Burlington House, Piccadilly. Price 2s. 6d.*

WHEN the Editors of the Sporting Magazine first planned their work, it was suggested, whether or not a sufficient variety of subjects could be furnished, or would present themselves, through the liberality of Correspondents, for such an undertaking? Doubts certainly did arise on this point in the first instance, but they were soon removed, for instead of standing in need of articles, and becoming *hunters* for productions applicable to our design, we are pressed on every side with more than we have room to admit. For though, perhaps, Racing and some other sports may have declined a little, others have in proportion increased. Witness the fashionable gaming-houses at the west end of the town, which have trebled their number within a few years. Witness also the private parties at Lady Buckinghamshire's, Lady Archer's, Mrs. Strutt's, and Mrs. Concannon's; at all of which Pharoah and his host constantly assemble during the winter season.

Subjects, therefore, cannot be wanting to enrich the Sporting Magazines; amongst those which offer for the present month is the above-named publication, and which we shall here presume to notice. The author's preliminary articles, as stated in the title page, is the History of Cards, *which being already given in our first volume, pages 2, and 74, and page 272 of the second, in nearly the same words, we shall not insert.*

The author's ingenious account of Faro is therefore the first that claims our attention: he gives the etymology of the words by which the game is variously called, viz. Pharaon, Faron, Pharoah, Pharo, and Faro, and then the origin of the game itself, with some remarks on a similar game, formerly much played in France and England, called Bassetta. Previous to entering into the minutiæ of the Game of Faro, he takes notice of the natural propensity of man to gaming, in the following terms:

"There appears universally in man a propensity to hazard his property or money at games of chance, or skill, in hopes of gain. The Chinese are most desperate gamesters. Savages are addicted to gaming. The Indians of North America are passionately fond of a game termed "the Platter;" they have been known, on losing their beaver skins, the medium of commerce with them, to stake their instruments of war; on loss of them, the liberty of their children; then that of their wives; and lastly, in desperation, that which they hold most dear—their own liberty; and have, on the event being determined against them, gone passively into slavery. The negroes on the slave coast of Guinea will stake their wives, their children, and themselves. Tacitus mentioning the passion the Germans had for gaming, says, "*extremo ac novissimo jactu, de libertate & de corpore contendunt.*" For their last throw, they stake their liberty and life. The sons of fortune, the *beau monde,* seek relief from the *ennui,* experienced in the satiety of luxurious life, uninterrupted by any serious occupation,

occupation, in the agitation inseparable from play."

We ſhall now give our readers ſome general idea of the Game of Faro, and that, by two or three ſhort extracts.

EXPLANATION OF THE TERMS USED AT FARO.

BANKER. The perſon who eſtabliſhes a faro-bank, *banque*, or table, with a large ſum of money for punters to play at.

TAILLEUR, from *tailler*, French, to deal. The dealer. Either the banker or a perſon he has employed to deal.

CROUPIER, *Anglicè Croup.* An aſſiſtant to the dealer, ſitting oppoſite him, to watch that no miſtakes happen; that the punters do not let cocks or parolis ſtand, which ſhould retire; to pay and receive ſtakes, ſhuffle the cards, &c.

PUNTE, French. Punter, Engliſh, from *punto*, Italian, for a point. The player, at faro, who is called ſo from punting or ſtaking his money on the number of points a card contains, without reference to the ſuit.

LIVRET, French, for a ſmall book. This word is pronounced as if it were ſpelt *levray*. The livret or book, is a ſuit of thirteen cards, with the addition of four cards repreſentative of the others: viz. a card with a large blue croſs on each ſide, to denote ace, deux, and trois, which is often called the ſmall or little figure. A card, yellow on both ſides, to denote 4, 5, 6, and called the yellow figure. A card with a large black carreu or diamond on both ſides, for 7, 8, 9, 10, termed the black figure. And a red card for knave, queen, king, called the red, or great figure.

COUP, pronounced *coo*. The two cards dealt, one on the right hand for the banker, and the other on the left, for the punters, conſtitute a coup; both of which muſt be dealt before any event can be determined: there are therefore twenty-ſix coups in a deal.

PAROLI, is after a punter has won a ſum equal to his ſtake, and is determined to purſue his fortune, and wager what he has won, in addition to his ſtake on his card; to ſave trouble, he declines receiving it, and adding to his own, but bends the corner of the ſame or ſome other card, or a head card. This is often termed a cock; but as the uſe of this word gives riſe to ſome ridiculous, not to ſay immodeſt alluſions, the term paroli is invariably uſed in good company. By the next event, the punter either loſes the ſtake on his card, and his claim on the bank, or receives thrice the value of his ſtake, which is equivalent to winning two or loſing two, as one of the three was his own before, but left in the bank fund. A paroli may be purchaſed by paying the banker a ſum equal to the ſtake.

A FARO BANK

is eſtabliſhed by one, two, or more perſons, who depoſit between them from five hundred to a thouſand guineas, agreeing to bank again, in caſe that ſhould unfortunately be loſt. Players are not permitted to punt leſs than half guineas, ſometimes not leſs than guineas, and generally limited to ten guineas: a punter ſucceeding in a *ſoixante et la va* on ſuch a ſtake would receive ſix hundred and thirty guineas. Although there are ſilver tables on a narrow ſcale for *gentle* punters, where half-crowns are ſtaked; theſe

these are of dangerous tendency, on account of the contracted circumstances of the persons that frequent them.

Some further extracts respecting the *Mode of Play*, &c. we shall reserve for our next number.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

AS you have, on many occasions, given me a proof of your desire to promote the VETERINARY SCIENCE, and also obliged your Subscribers with a very elegant engraving of the building erected for that purpose at *St. Pancras*, I am induced to believe the annexed drawing of PALFREY'S INFIRMARY, in the neighbourhood of this town, may claim your attention. I am certain it will oblige the numerous readers of your Magazine in this quarter, and none more than

Your humble servant,
A Warwickshire Sportsman.

Coventry, *Feb.* 12, 1794.

*** *As it has been our wish, ever since the commencement of our Publication, (as far as we could with consisteney) to oblige the patronizers of it, we have complied with the request of the above correspondent, and we beg leave to present our readers with an elegant engraving from the drawing alluded to. The following short account of the Institution may not be deemed an improper appendage.*

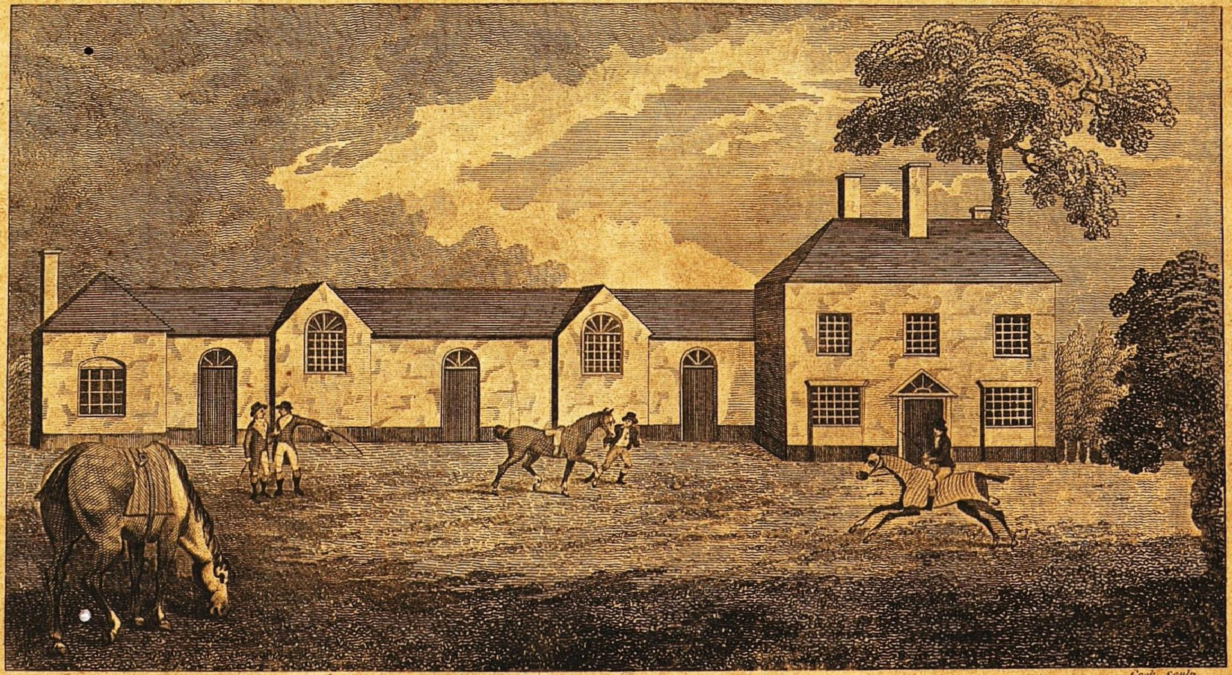
THIS building is situated on a very pleasant and healthful spot, about a quarter of a mile west of Coventry. The great road from London to Birmingham and Liverpool is in its front, at the distance of nearly 150 yards. In the back-yard are hospitals and open stables for the reception of diseased and sick horses in the first stage of their complaints, before they are fit to be admitted into the front, or more pure stables, which are taken up by horses in physic, or patients whose complaints are not contagious. In the yard is the brake, which is so constructed for strength and safety, that all operations are performed without the trouble or hazard of *casting*. There is likewise, in an adjoining place, a perfect skeleton of a horse, to refer to in cases of lameness, fractures, &c. The whole is surrounded by paddocks, of one, two, and three acres each, in which are hovels and sheds for shelter. Some of the paddocks are well watered, and others without water, for the better accommodation of horses of different descriptions, whose complaints require open air, or grass, for their perfect recovery.

In short, we believe it to be the most complete undertaking, (the Veterinary College excepted) of the kind in this kingdom.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

IF it would be consistent with your plan, I should, as a pigeon-fancier, wish to see, in the course of your work, not only a description of the varieties of those birds, but likewise an engraving of one of each of the different sorts. I do not think I stand alone in the wish; there are, to my knowledge, several gentlemen



PALFREY'S. *Horse Infirmary*, COVENTRY.

gentlemen fanciers, who would unite with me in making the request, if, as I said before, it would not militate against the settled plan of your entertaining Monthly Publication.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your humble servant,
A Pigeon-fancier.

Kennington-lane,
March 5, 1794.

For the Sporting Magazine.

Remarkable Instance of the Prevalence of the Ruling Passion in the last Moments of Human Existence, depicted in an Anecdote of Mr. C—rt—r, *the celebrated Oxfordshire Fox Hunter.*

Mr. C—rt—r, a gentleman not many years ago, of respectable patrimonial estate, in the neighbourhood of Witney, in Oxfordshire, was, in the complete acceptation of the term, a fox-hunter. He could boast a kennel of the finest hounds in that part of the country, and was in possession of a stud of mettled coursers, to whom, as to their master, neither hedge, nor ditch, nor five-barred gate, nor river, nor precipice, had appearance formidable enough to interrupt the sport, or damp the ardour of the pursuit.

In his dress, his manners, and his conversation, the huntsman and the whipper-in were the evident models of his imitation. Over the hilarity of the briskly flowing bowl, in the intercourses of friendship, and even in the endearments of domestic life, the language of the chase was never forgotten; in short, throughout the surrounding country, fox-hunting C—rt—r was the epithet by which he was universally known, and with indisputable propriety distinguished. Even his nearest relations were esteemed in proportion only to their attachment to the chase. Those who wished for his affections, had no hopes of success, but by leaping into them over a five-barred gate, and to be sent to h—ll with a *tantivy*, was the inevitable consequence of standing in awe of broken limbs, or a dislocated neck.

It happened one day, while this heroic votary of Diana was endeavouring to leap a gate of unusual height, that the leg of his favourite hunter caught between the upper bars, threw him on the other side, and tumbling with all his weight upon him, crushed and fractured one on his legs in so dreadful a manner as rendered vain all the healing efforts of chirurgical skill, and left to the unhappy sufferer only the dreadful alternative of amputation or death.

Mr. C—rt—r was not long deliberating on his choice. Recollecting that he never should be able to keep the saddle at a fox-chase with a wooden leg, he swore that he came into the world with two legs, and with two he would go out of it. In this resolution he obstinately presevered; and after languishing some time, if to a man of his resolution and violent temper, the term *languishing* can ever be applied, his fancy still running on the darling pleasures of the chase, he went out of the world, as he would have ended a fox-hunt, with the exulting shout of the death hollow; having previously bequeathed his estate to his favourite nephew, for no other reason, than because he had used, while a boy, to follow him through all the

won, by performing it in one hour and twenty five minutes.

1775.

April 5th, thirteen horses started for the Jockey Club Plate, the two first of which were Mambrino and Trentham. The odds at starting were seven to four against Mambrino. They run to so great a nicety, that it was determined by the judges to be a dead heat. The odds were now six to four on Trentham. They both started full speed the second time, and kept so close, that a sheet would have covered them during the whole heat; but Mambrino beat Trentham with difficulty, insomuch that he won by only the tip of his nose.

1777.

A shepherd at Beverley, in Yorkshire, for a bet of five pounds, was produced, who was to devour a living cat. The one produced was a large black Tom cat, which had not been fed for the purpose, but was chosen as being the largest in that neighbourhood. The day appointed was the fair day at Beverley (July 5th.) The parties met. The man produced was a raw-boned fellow, about forty. The cat was then given to him, on which he took hold of its four legs with one hand, and closing its mouth with the other, he killed him, by biting his head to pieces immediately, and in less than a quarter of an hour devoured every part of the cat. The man who laid the wager gave the performer two guineas for doing it, and the shepherd appeared perfectly satisfied with the reward. After he had done he walked about the fair the whole afternoon, and seemed neither sick nor sorry. He took no emetic, nor had this repast any effect upon him whatever.

1783.

October 5th, died, at Romald Kirk, a village in the North of Yorkshire, Mary Wilkinson, aged 109. When young, she walked several times to London in less than four days, though the distance is 250 computed miles. When 90 years of age, she, with a keg of gin, and a sufficiency of provision buckled to her back, walked from Romald Kirk to London in five days and three hours.

1784.

June, Sir John Lade performed a journey from Bath to London (108 miles) in a phaeton and four in eight hours.

Sept. 14th, a Shetland poney (11 hands high, carrying 5ft.) matched for 100 guineas to run from Norwich to Yarmouth and back again, which is 44 miles, performed it with ease in three hours and 45 minutes, which was thought to be the greatest thing ever done by a horse of his height.

1787.

June 19th, was run on the Colnbrook road, by a young man, 18 miles for 50 guineas. The time allowed was two hours and a quarter, which he completed in two hours. The bets on this occasion were very considerable.

Oct. 11th, a match for a mile was run on the City road, between Walpole, a butcher, in Newgate Market, and the noted Pope, which was won by Walpole with ease, who run that distance

distance (though the road was very heavy) in four minutes and a half. Odds, before starting, 50 to 30l. against the winter.

1788.

March 1, a bet was made between the Duke of Bedford and Lord Barrymore. His Lordship betted his Grace 500l. to 400l. that he produced a man who should eat a live cat, which was performed at the time appointed by a labouring man of Harpenden, near St. Alban's.

August 2, Mr. Nightingale, of Braintree, in Essex, undertook, for a wager of 20 guineas, to travel with a horse, 20 years old, in a chaise, 50 miles a day for seven days successively, and performed the journey with ease every day.

September 3, the Prince of Wales offered a very considerable bet that he could drive himself from Brighton to London, which is 54 miles, in three hours and a half. He was to have 12 horses to perform the journey, which were to be ready harnessed in light carriages, at proper distances on the road. The bet was not accepted. His Royal Highness, in his well-known match from Windsor, in the gig, went as fast, but not so far.

Sept. 17th, was decided at Lytham, Yorkshire, a wager between Mr. Bamford and Mr. Bradyll, the former staked 200 guineas to 60, that he killed, some one day in September, four brace of partridges, using his left arm only. The wager was won in a few hours, Mr. B. killing nine brace at 21 shots, after missing the first ten. What is more extraordinary, Mr. B. never practised this method of shooting before.

October 11th, an experiment was made of a carriage upon a new construction, consisting of a coach with three bodies, by a coach-maker of Norwich, on the road from thence to Wymondham, ten miles, which was worked with four horses in 56 minutes, and carried 12 grown persons and seven children.

(To be continued.)

The City Sportsman; *or, the* Exploits *of* Johnny Gilpin *the Second.*

As the following story is recent in the memory of many gentlemen who constantly attend Mr. Chapman's hunt, the writer requests the Editors of the Sporting Magazine will insert it in their next Number.

One morning, as Mr. Chapman's hounds, of Putney, were waiting upon Sutton Common for some of the Company, an elderly person riding towards town, in a *cauliflower wig, cocked hat, black breeches, and boots*, inquired of the huntsman what they were going to hunt, who informed him a *bag fox*; and that he hoped he would join the chase, which the other replied, he should be very happy to do; but that, having been, the preceding day, to dine with his brother, who had the honour to be an alderman, at his *box* in the country, he was in haste to return

to his *shop*, for fear business should be neglected in his absence; but desired to be introduced to Mr. Chapman, who, he requested, would order the fox to be turned out with his *head* toward *town*, as he then might enjoy the pleasures of the chase in his way home, which Mr. Chapman thinking (from this extraordinary request, and his grotesque appearance) his joining the chase would afford some diversion, with the greatest gravity immediately assented to it, and *reynard* being soon after set at liberty, with (according to *Wigsby's* request) his *head* towards *town*, ran, whilst in view, in a direct line with the London Road; but, by the time the hounds were laid on, had turned, and taken quite a contrary direction. The scent lying vastly well, the hounds ran very swift, and were as eagerly followed by a very numerous field of *sportsmen*, all of whom enjoyed the distress of our *hero*, whose horse, having more mettle than his rider, ran for some time close in with the hounds, to the great terror of the latter, who, *Gilpin* like, held fast, by the *mane and pommel*; and, after having escaped many dangers in a chase of an hour and a half, was at last completely thrown out, and left in a ditch, with the loss of his *whip*, *hat*, and *wig*; where, after having lain some time, and recovered from his *panic*, he perceived a town at a short distance, which he made up to, in hopes of being soon able to reach *St. Paul's*, or the *Monument*; when, upon inquiry, to his great surprise and mortification, he was informed the place he was at, was *Dorking*, in *Surry!*

MIRTH'S MUSEUM; *or, the* COUNTRY CLUB, *performed at the* LYCEUM, *in the Strand, under the direction of* MR. REEVE.

THIS entertainment has evidently for its basis, the inimitable productions that have been annually brought forward, both at *this place*, and *Sans Souci*. The novelty, indeed, we may add the indefatigable industry of one *man*, in keeping a respectable audience in a continued state of good humour for upwards of two hours, certainly merits countenance and support: and we are happy to find that Mr. DIBDIN'S harvest has been, on most occasions, as productive as he could wish.

The performance under the above title is divided into three parts; and, to introduce the songs to the more immediate attention of the auditory, recitals (in which are characterised with some ingenuity, AN HONEST TAR, AN HIBERNIAN, A SCOTCHMAN, A FOX-HUNTING SQUIRE, AN EXCISEMAN, &c. &c.) have been adopted. *The songs (of which a specimen may be seen in our poetical department)* are written with some humour, and *the music*, if not altogether original, is prettily adapted to them. Of *the singers*, which are *four* in number, we must class Mr. Reeve as the foremost, who acquitted himself much to the satisfaction of his hearers.

To add force to the *band*, which is by no means to be despised, the aid of Messrs. *Courteney* and *Wieppart* have been sought: the performances of the first on the *union pipes*, and the latter on the *harp*, need no encomium of ours to recommend them.

The place itself is neatly fitted up, and calculated to hold a considerable number of persons.

THE

THE

FEAST OF WIT;

OR,

SPORTSMAN'S HALL.

HUNTING *and* EATING.

AN AMERICAN ANECDOTE.

AN Indian, who came to one of the American ſettlements to barter away his furs, had beads and other ſmall trinkets delivered to him, wrapt up in pieces of Engliſh newſpapers. Curious to know what was going on in this country, he aſked a trader *who could read* to explain the contents. The firſt paragraph was—"Yeſterday his Majeſty, accompanied by Lord C. and Lord W. and ſeveral other Noblemen and Gentlemen, took the diverſion of Hunting." The next—"On Thurſday, Mr. Dundas gave a grand Dinner to the Cabinet Miniſters." The next—"The Windſor Hunt was laſt week moſt numerouſly attended;"—this was followed by—"The Ducheſs of Gordon's *ſuperb* Dinner, attended by all the Cabinet Miniſters, except three, who had unfortunately *ſplendid* Dinners at their own houſes, the ſame evenings: but for theſe Gentlemen, her Grace has declared her intention of having a magnificent Feaſt next week." The next paragraph was dated from Yorkſhire, and gave a long account of Colonel Thornton's hounds having run a fox more than fifty miles. The reader was going on with the relation of ſeveral other Dinners for *Lords* and *Commons*, when the Indian interrupted him, and cried out, "Stop, I want to hear no more—I ſee that in what you call a civilized country, and boaſt ſo much about, the whole buſineſs of life is the ſame as with us—*Hunting and Eating*.

ANECDOTE.

Two gentlemen of the city of Bath having had ſome high words, one of them was ſeen the enſuing morning taking the mean revenge of chalking "*a raſcal,*" againſt the door of his opponent. The latter calling afterwards at his houſe, was informed by the ſervant that his maſter was not at home, and who likewiſe inquired if he ſhould deliver any particular meſſage to him on his return? Oh! no, replied the

 gentleman,

gentleman, I called merely out of compliment, as he left *his name* at my house this morning.

The Irish have established a *Humane Society*, and as we are ever disposed to notice a spirit of improvement, it would be unjust in us not to observe, that it goes far beyond that of England in its Humane Pretensions—even to the giving relief, as one of its publications expressly says, in *Cases of Accidental Death!*—By the way, its ability to perform must not be much doubted, if we are to believe a grave statement which appeared in the Dublin papers lately, of a child being restored, after being carried *a mile* through a water pipe!

Our letters from *Madras* advise, that a considerable freight of beautiful *English damsels* were about to be *re-shipped* for Europe. The reasons assigned for so sudden a falling off in this article of *luxurious commerce*, are the *markets being overstocked*, and the present *scarcity of Pogodas*; on which account the *Nabobs* now refuse to take any more of those *bales of beauty*, unless consigned either with a *drawback* or a *bounty!*

On Thursday last, a couple being out-asked, at St Ann's, Soho, came to be married, and when the clergyman came to that part of the ceremony which directs that the woman shall be supported in sickness and in health, the bridegroom, in a joke, said to the clergyman, "What shall I do with her if she should be lame or lazy?" upon which the clergyman refused to proceed with the ceremony, and the disappointed couple were obliged to defer their nuptials to a more convenient season.

Equivoque.—A curious mistake happened a few evenings since upon Lancaster Quay: two sailor boys, singing a ballad, "*Down with Tom Paine*," were overheard by a shoemaker named *Tom Craine*, who was going towards his home, a good deal elevated by his evening potation.—Deceived by the sound of the two last monosyllables of their *ditty*, he went up to them, and demanded, "what they had to say against *Tom Craine?*"—His beverage, together with the resentment he felt at the imagined abuse, hurried him too much in his speech, and led his supposed accusers into a similar mistake.—Against *Tom Paine* they had a great deal to say. They began to bestow the usual epithets, and *Tom Craine*, not doubting but the application of *traitor*, *rebel*, &c. was intended solely for himself, began to strip, and prepare for battle. Fortunately at this instant, some persons stepped in, and, discovering the *mistake*, reconciled the parties, before they had time to proceed to action.

On inspecting the accounts of an apothecary, lately deceased in Dublin, it appeared that there was due to him, in what he deemed good debts, from his patients *now alive* 618l. from the executors of his *dead patients*, 3900l.—that he owed for *drugs* of all descriptions, 52l. for brandies and other *spirits*, 280l. and to his *bottle merchant*, 500l.

Alchemy restored.—A man actually advertises his services to the public, on the merit of having been all his life a *schemer.*—*Risum teneatis!*

An anedote about a farmer, in ridicule of the war, dressing a devoted animal with a cockade, as a *Recruit going to the slaughter*, was first started in an old jest book — it has since travelled through every provincial paper in England with local appropriate transmigrations.. In Essex it was a calf of that country, in Lincolnshire a sheep, in Wales and Scotland a runt, and is now exhibiting in the Irish prints as a sprightly young bull. The farmer all the way through the piece has never altered his character—he, gentle reader, is a *Democrat*.

SPIRIT OF TRADE.

When Louis XIV. was in the heart of Holland, a Burgher of Amsterdam sold him powder to destroy the country. The prince of Orange sent somebody to speak to the burgher. The Messenger told his Highness, "Application was in vain, as there was no law to prevent it: and if the trade was a gainful one, he would send a ship to h—ll, though the fire burnt the sails of it.

Upwards of 3000 masques attended the late Grand Masked Ball at the Opera-house. Amongst them was an *Alarmist*, with a coat turned inside out—The *face* was that of an *old woman*. Upon being asked what he was? he said, "a very *popular* character, a Turncoat; or, if you please, an Alarmist." A ragged fellow then coming up to him, and exclaiming, "Ho! What! You are an *Alarmist*—are you! What are you *afraid* of?" He replied, "Why, my first and greatest fear is, that I shant' get *a place*." And, he continued, "I'm afraid too of *reason*, *truth*, *justice*, and *liberty*." "Why so," says the Sans-Culotte? "Because," answered the Alarmist, "reason would shew *how things are*; truth, *how they ought to be*; justice, would reverse certain *new* laws of transportation; and liberty, would make *such ragged fellows as you* as happy as myself.

A seditious songster being lately prosecuted in a borough town in the West of England, the following is said to be the sentence passed upon him on conviction:

"Prisoner, I am the *organ* of the law, through which its sentence must pass upon you in *open diapason!* Your *cadence* claims no lenity.—you tried to subvert the Constitution by a *Catch*; I shall not hesitate, therefore, to punish you with a *Glee!*—Beware, in future, of the *Horn of Sedition*, whose *accompaniments* must ever be in *thorough bass!* You have swelled the scale of your *discords*, by critising the exquisite performances of the Leader of His Majesty's *Band*, whose *prestos*, *allegros*, or *andantes* ought ever to be *encored*; because his *divisions* are invariably well-*timed*, while those, which oppose them, being in *counterpoint*, and in *three-flats*, are sure to resolve themselves into a *minor key*. That such vile *scrapers* as you, therefore, may not put the *harmonic concert* of Government out of *tune*; I adjudge you to one hundrest *bars rest* in Bridewell; during which you are to received a cat-o'-nine-tail *movement obligato* on your back in *score!* This will teach you at least to play a little more *piano*; and, 'tis hoped, to avoid that *fatal* CHORD, which must otherwise *stop* your *vox humane*,

mane, and bring the *strains* of your whole *instrument* to a disgraceful FINALE.

The House of Commons may be considered as the stage for Intellectual Gladiators; and the Dramatis Personæ may be ranked as follow:

Big Ben,	by Mr. Fox,
Mendoza,	by Mr. Sheridan,
Perrins,	by Mr. Pitt, and
Ward,	by Mr. Dundas.

To continue the analogy, it must be admitted, that they frequently give and receive foul blows—sometimes trip up the heels of an assertion—and often give, with dexterity, the cross-buttock to an argument.

A provincial paper tells us of a monstrous pike being caught, with another of its own species in its belly, both of which were sent as a *Fast Day* present, to a *loyal* company met to dine on that day. Surely this voracious emblem was a libel upon the occasion.

GREAT EFFECTS FROM LITTLE CAUSES.

The only time Addison rose to make a speech in the House of Commons, he was unluckily prevented by the witticism of another Member. He began, "Mr. Speaker, I conceive!—I conceive, Mr. Speaker—I say, Mr. Speaker, I conceive that"—Here the other, interrupting him, archly addressed the chair: "Mr. Speaker, the learned gentleman has conceived thrice, and has not brought forth once!—A similar piece of waggery robbed a respectable meeting, a few days ago, at Manchester, of the pleasure of hearing an excellent speech (on the subject of the Rochdale canal) from the mouth of a Cicero.—The orator began with, "*Mr. Chairman!—I rise to resist!*"—and, stopping to wipe a little *froth* from his mouth, some speech-spoiling Jacobin behind bellowed out, "*Sit down and desist!*—which, to the infinite regret of the company, spoiled "the best speech he ever made in his life," by giving him a *lock'd jaw.*

NEW THEATRE.

DRURY-LANE, MARCH 13.

THIS new and splendid Theatre was opened last night, with a selection of sacred music. For a description of the theatre we refer to the following article; to which we can add, (what is more essential than beauty) that it is an admirable music room. The voice was heard with the utmost clearness in every part of the house; and this chief recommendation, combined with the elegance of the place, the grandeur of the avenues, and th[e] perfect form of the house fo[r] sight of the stage, must mak[e] every spectator acknowledge that at length, we have an Englis[h] theatre worthy of our opulenc[e] and taste.

Description of the New Buildin[g] still called

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

ALTHOUGH the foundation and great part of the main wal[ls] were finished some time sinc[e] and had, therefore, the advanta[ge] of drying and settling, the inte[r]nal parts of the theatre have be[en] completed with unprecedent[ed] expedition. The same circu[m]stances which interrupted awh[ile] the forwarding the theatre, [ren]dered it impossible to proceed [with] the buildings around, which [...]

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together with the theatre, will form one great and complete plan, ſtanding foremoſt in the rank of public edifices in this metropolis.

The convenience and ſafety of the public will, beſides, be very effectually provided for, by covering the footway with a colonade of the Grecian Ionic order (a part of which is executed) affording ſhelter below, and, at the ſame time, forming a terrace before the windows of the Theatre above, which, when ſecured with ornamented iron-work, and lighted by a number of lamps, as it is intended it ſhall be, will contribute very greatly to the elegance of the appearance. The plan will include an area of upwards of 320 feet in length, by 155 in breadth, and the height of the building, meaſuring from the ſubſtruction to the roof, is 118 feet.

The buildings which ſurround the Theatre are faced with Portland ſtone, and will be finiſhed with a balluſtrade. The Theatre, which riſes above them, is to be faced with ſtone, and finiſhed with a balluſtrade. Through the roof riſes a turret, maſking a large ventilator, and a ſtaircaſe which leads to a terrace on the roof. On the ſummit is placed a figure of Apollo, more than ten feet high, which is to be removed to the weſt front when finiſhed, and replaced by one of Shakeſpeare.

The accommodations for the ſtage are upon a much larger ſcale than thoſe of any other Theatre in Europe. The opening for the ſcenery is 43 feet wide, and 38 high; after which the painter and machiniſt will have a large ſpace of 85 feet in width, 92 in length, and 110 in height, for the exertion of their reſpective abilities.

In the roof of the theatre are contained, beſides the barrel loft, ample room for the ſcene painters, and four very large reſervoirs, from which water is diſtributed over every part of the houſe, for the purpoſe of inſtantly extinguiſhing fire, in any part where ſuch an accident is poſſible: at the ſame time the greateſt precautions have been uſed to prevent any ſuch misfortune, by the application of every kind of ſecurity that expence and ingenuity can ſuggeſt. Beſides other precautions, an iron curtain has been contrived, which, on any ſuch occaſion, would completely prevent all communication between the audience and the ſtage, where alone accidents by fire have been known to commence.

The audience part of the theatre is formed nearly on a ſemicircular plan. It contains a pit, eight boxes on each ſide of the pit, two rows of boxes above them, and two galleries, which command a full view of every part of the ſtage. On each ſide of the galleries are two more rows of boxes, riſing to a cove, which is ſo contrived as to form the ceiling into a complete circle.—The *proſcenium*, or that part of the ſtage which is contained between the curtain and the orcheſtra, is fitted up with boxes, but without any ſtage-door, or the uſual addition of large columns.—The boxes are furniſhed with chairs in the front rows, and behind with benches. The trimming and covering are all of blue velvet.

* The corridors which ſurround the boxes are ſpacious, and communicate with each other

* A gallery, or long aiſle, around a building leading to different apartments, at a diſtance from each other.

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by means of ſtaircaſes in the angles of the theatre. At the weſt end of the theatre there is a very large ſemi-circular room, opening by an arch to the corridors, and having fire-places in it, and bar-rooms, from which the company may be ſupplied with refreſhments. There are alſo large ſalloons on the north and ſouth ſides of the theatre, and alſo handſome ſquare-rooms; one of which is intended for the uſe of His Majeſty, and the other for the Prince of Wales. Theſe rooms are fitted up in the modern taſte, with large handſome pannels and glaſſes, and are ſuſceptible of a great deal of decoration, which is intended to be introduced, as ſoon as the ornaments can be obtained from the artiſts who are engaged in the preparation of them.

The decorations of the theatre are in a ſtyle entirely new, and are intended to have a richneſs of effect, and, at the ſame time, a ſimplicity, which may gratify the eye without interfering with any of the decorations which appear on the ſtage. With this view, the ceiling has been painted in compartments of one colour only, and the ſame ſtile of painting prevails through the decorations of the galleries. The fronts and inſides of the boxes have for the ground a clear blue colour, richly ornamented in chiaro obſcuro. The different rows are ſupported by ſilver columns of antique forms, and the cut glaſs luſtres are attached to theſe columns by ſilver brackets. In the center pannels on the front of the boxes, are introduced paintings, by Rebecca, from antique ſubjects. Beſides the ſilver columns which ſupport the boxes, there are four principal ſquare, but ſmall pillars, which ſupport the ceiling, and are decorated with looking-glaſs. The ſound-board, or ceiling of the *proſcenium* is painted in compartments, and in the front of the *proſcenium* is introduced the royal arms, with trophies, and other ſuitable accompaniments.

The entrances to the Theatre, while the bill in parliament is pending, neceſſarily fall ſhort of the convenience which is intended. From Ruſſell-ſtreet there are two box entrances into a large hall decorated with columns; another entrance which leads to the gallery ſtaircaſe, and alſo a private entrance for his Majeſty. On the other ſide of the Theatre, next Marquis-court, the ſame entrances are repeated: but, till the new ſtreet, (which is intended to be called Woburn-ſtreet) is opened, theſe can only be approached by foot-paſſengers, or by company coming in chairs. As a chair-door, the box entrance on that ſide is at preſent more complete than to any other public building in London. There are five other entrances to the Theatre alſo incomplete: one next Bridges-ſtreet for the pit, one for the boxes, two for the galleries, and one in Drury-lane for the ſtage. In theſe two ſtreets will be the handſomeſt and moſt decorated fronts: beſides the Ionic porticos, theſe fronts are to be decorated with pilaſters, trophies, rich iron work, and other analogous ornaments; and will face buildings containing a coffee-houſe, tavern, library, ſhops of various ſorts, reſidences for the performers, and others belonging to the Theatre.

According to the plan, it is propoſed to be, in every reſpect, the firſt and completeſt edifice of the ſort in Europe, and worthy the capital in which it ſtands.

SPORTING

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

AN uncommon occurrence happened at Richmond, on Saturday, February 22, about noon. A hare, that had probably been disturbed in the King's grounds at Richmond, crossed the bottom of the lane leading from the playhouse to the Thames, and being pursued by some boys in full cry, ran up the side of the river near the Duke of Queensberry's house, and crossing the end of Water-lane, made directly towards the dry arch of the bridge, where, being met by some persons walking along, poor puss was so intimidated, that she leaped headlong from the embankment into the river, and attempted to swim across to the opposite side. This being observed by two watermen, who were hard by, they immediately put off in a boat; and, as the hare made her way but slowly, they seized her in the middle of the river, and brought her safe on shore.

An incident, equally singular, happened some time ago in the same place. A gentleman of Richmond, walking one day by the water-side, a cock-pheasant came whirring over the Duke of Queensberry's house, and, flying up the river towards the bridge, all at once fell down souse into the water, as if he had been shot. The gentleman instantly threw himself into a boat, and, having reached the pheasant, took him up under the middle arch of the bridge. To his great surprise, he found him not only quite alive, but altogether unhurt. The cause of this phenomenon most probably was, that the poor timid bird had been pursued by a kite, or some other feathered foe, equally formidable, and, to elude his pursuit, had taken refuge in an element so alien to his nature.

FOX HUNTING.

The pack of fox-hounds belonging to William Barbor, Esq. of Fermington, in the county of Devon, have afforded uncommon sport during their residence in Hampshire. The latter end of last month they unkennelled a fox at Everly Ashes, and, after a very severe burst, killed near the Earl of Aylesbury's Park, in the most capital style ever known in that country.

Last week the same hounds unkennelled a fox at Abbot's Ann Woods, which maintained a severe chase of upwards of three hours, in which time he ran over a space of forty miles of a very hilly country, and was killed in the neighbourhood of Great Bedwin, in this county. On Saturday last the hunt concluded, and during the short time of their residence in this country, they have afforded more sport than any other pack that has hunted here for several years past. Great praise is due to the huntsman for his civility and great ability in managing the pack.

On the 5th of March, there were discovered on the manor of Twitten, near Pendle hill, by Mr. Lister's game-keeper, of Gisburn-park, a brood of moor-game, seemingly about ten days old, which could fly about that number of yards at a time. The game-keeper is upwards of sixty years of age, and says he had never seen any so early before.

CHESTER, MARCH 6.

On Monday last, Mr. Samuel Thompson, of Wallarscoat, near Northwich,

Northwich, Cheshire, was convicted before the Rev. Thomas Dickinson, clerk, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the hundred of Eddisbury, in the sum of 10s. for tracing in the snow; and likewise in the further sum of 20l. for having been found in the pursuit of game, without having first taken out a certificate for that purpose. The above penalties were enforced.

BATH, MARCH 7.

A bird was last week shot, on King's Sedgemoor, by a gentleman of Bath, which is evidently of the blackbird species, but its plumage is of a finely mottled fawn colour; the bill and legs are red. It is put into a state of preservation, as a matter worthy of the attention of the naturalist.

The violent dispute which arose some time since at Brookes's on a disputed point of a game at *whist*, is not yet settled. The *case* is at length agreed upon, and Mr. Francis now offers 1000 guineas to 500, that his first opinion will be adjudged right.

The beginning of this month, a match was made between Mendoza and Hooper, to fight on a 24 feet stage, some time in next term, (as Mendoza at present enjoys the air of St. George's Fields), for 50l. a-side. Twenty pounds were deposited by each party, which sum Mendoza has forfeited; he not choosing to enter the list with Hooper.

March 13, Mr. Shipway, of Hoxton, trotted his poney Jack, 10 hands high, 10 miles in 41 minutes and a half, on the Kingsland-road. Mr. Shipway took ten guineas to five, that he did not do it in less than an hour. The same day the poney, for another bet of ten guineas, beat Mr. Badkin's bay galloway, in trotting ten miles on the same road.

LEICESTER, MARCH 15.

On Tuesday last was turned out upon the race-ground, before the Leicester hounds, a doe belonging to Mr. Baker of Birstal. She went off in a gallant style, and passed over the lordships of Knighton, Oadby, Evington, and Stoughton; and was at length taken near the seat of Anthony Piers Keck, Esq. who was present at the chase. This gentleman immediately invited the company to the hall, and regaled them with that true English hospitality, which many present so well remembered to have experienced in the days of his worthy predecessor.

WHITE'S, ST. JAMES'S STREET.

MR. EDITOR,

In a late newspaper, it was mentioned, as singular, that a nobleman had been balloted for four times this winter at White's, and never had more than one ball against him. Give me leave to relate an anecdote told me by the celebrated Colley Cibber, of theatrical memory, which he said he related in honour of the above society at White's, of which he himself was a member:—"No person," says he, "can be ballotted for, unless his name be previously submitted to the club by a member; however, when the ballotting box was opened, lo! there was not even the friend's white ball, for they were *all black*; not doubting but that there would be one *white* ball, at White's,

White's, he ventured to black-ball his own friend himſelf.

NO MEMBER.

Sir William Rowley, and Mr. Harding Newman have not yet ſettled their reſpective claims to the eaſtern and northern *fox-covers*, in the county of Eſſex.

On the 15th ult. a gentleman and a farmer were proſecuted before the juſtices of peace for the ſhire of Forfar, at the inſtance of the Solicitor of Stamp Duties, for having uſed a dog, gun, net, or other engine, for the taking, or deſtruction of game. The gentleman having admitted the offence, he was fined only in 10l. with coſts; but the farmer having denied the charge, a proof was led, and he was convicted and fined in 12l. ſterling, and coſts of ſuit.

Mr. Fiſher, of Old Street, has engaged, for a bet of twenty guineas, to run backwards one hundred yards in the ſame time Mr. Alvey, of the ſame place, is running one hundred and fifty yards forward. They are to run along the Mall, in Moorfields, ſome Monday in April. Many bets are depending on this race.

The following addreſs furniſhes a new trait in the annals of Sporting: It appeared in the commercial ſhape of an advertiſement in the COURIER *of the 5th Inſt.*

FARO AT ROUTS.

As Faro is the moſt faſhionable circular game in the *haut ton*, in excluſion of melancholy whiſt, and to prevent a company being cantoned into ſeparate parties, a gentleman of unexceptionable character will, on invitation, do himſelf the honour to attend the rout of any lady, nobleman, or gentleman, with a Faro Bank and Fund adequate to the ſtile of play, from 500 to 2000 guineas.

Addreſs G. A. Eſq. by letter, to be left at Mr. Harding's, print-ſeller, Piccadilly, nearly oppoſite Bond Street.

N. B. This advertiſement will not appear again.

The following laconic deſcription of a hare hunt is taken from the mouth of an old ſportſman, in the neighbourhood of Wigton. "On Tueſday laſt, the dogs put up a hare in Iſell Old Parks; it was as big as a wedder; would ſcarce have gone under this balk. Up the hill they went, peſtle for peſtle. After hard peſtling for three miles, over the hill ſhe went; there they faſtened her!"

The following curious circumſtance happened a few days ſince in Exeter Court, in the Strand; a cat, who had been kept ſome time in a room where there was a pair of pidgeons, kittened, and produced three kittens, when one of them, coloured red and white, was diſcovered to have a perfect feather on its head, between the ears, the ſame colour as its coat; which the mother bit off in about two hours after. The mark of the feather is ſtill very plain, and it is expected by ſeveral who have ſeen it, that it will grow again as perfect as before.

Fox-hounds are now kept by the Britiſh Nabobs in India, in a greater ſtile than any of our packs in England.—Though they ſometimes hunt the fox, their runs are with the jackalls, which

have great ſpeed, and generally afford an excellent chaſe. The field in general is a fine ſpectacle, exhibiting, at leaſt, an hundred horſemen, all mounted on beautiful Arabians.

MATRIMONY.

Mr. Abraham Benn, aged 82, was lately married at Croſthwaite, near Keſwick, to Mrs. Ann Grave, aged 68. On the morning of their nuptials, the *jolly* bridegroom preſented the *blooming* bride with the following

EPITHALAMIUM.

Sing *Sixty-eight* and *Eighty-two!*
'Tis mighty ſtrange, 'twixt me and you;
But ſuch the high beheſt of fate,
That *Eighty-two* weds *Sixty-eight.*

BOB SHORT.

A *young pair*, who move in the firſt circles of faſhion, and who weded but four months ago, *purely for love*, have ſeparated by joint conſent a few days ſince, quite wearied out with the increaſing preſſure of *mutual diſguſt!*

Laſt month was married in London, Mr. Boulton, of Charing Croſs, coach-maſter, to Miſs Wilſon, daughter of Mr. Wilſon, late of Lad-lane, but now of Finſbury-ſquare. May the *harneſs* of matrimony ſit *eaſy*, and Mr. B. and his fair one *travel* the *ſtages* of life with felicity.

The following ſingular inſtance of animal adoption occurred a ſhort time ſince, at the ſeat of J. Spurling, Eſq. at Dyon's Hall, in Eſſex: A favourite ſpaniel bitch, remarkable as a hare finder, having her puppies drowned, went out one morning into the plantations, and ſoon after returned with a young leveret, about a week old, in her mouth, to which ſhe gave ſuck, and has affectionately continued ſo to do for more than ten days, to the aſtoniſhment of all the ſportſmen in the neighbourhood.

FASHION.

The wearers of the very elegant equeſtrian *great* coat, without ſkirts, have lately adopted an alteration, which reſcues them from the imputation of *cutting their coat according to their cloth*, by adding a tier of capes to it, which would more than furniſh ample appendages below.

Mr. Thompſon, of York-ſtreet, Spital-fields, during the late froſt, obſerved the footſteps of a hare on the ſnow in the garden adjoining his houſe; and after the ſnow, ſtill perceived the marks of its browſing on ſeveral ſucculent ſhrubs, till within a few days ſince, it was caught alive by a terrier bitch in his poſſeſſion.

A poacher well known about Hertfordſhire and Eſſex, lately miſſed a lurcher, which he could not remember ſeeing after quitting his ſport one morning in the country. Prepoſſeſſed with an idea that ſhe was near the ſpot where he had been hunting, a week afterwards he went to the place, and found her caught by the leg in a ſnare which he had placed for another kind of animal. The poor creature was almoſt exhauſted with hunger, and its leg cut to the bone by the wire, in ſtriving to diſengage itſelf.

POETRY.

POETRY.

THE HIGH COURT OF DIANA.

The most approved SONGS *in* MR. REEVES's *New Entertainment of the* COUNTRY CLUB.

THE HUNTSMAN'S RHAPSODY;
OR,
THE DELIGHTS OF THE FIELD.

OF horses and hounds who scud swift o'er the plain,
Praise has oft wing'd it's notes to the sky;
While echoing horns have repeated the strain,
And join'd in the Huntsman's full cry;
My voice I'll attune then, the chace grace my song,
For nought can compare to its joys!
O'er mountains, thro' vallies, we spank it along,
With tantivy, tantivy, hark forward my boys!

II.

'Tis exercise ever gives health it's warm glow,
And yields to refreshment a zest.
How sweetly to friendship the bottle will flow,
When return'd, plenty welcomes each guest.
My voice, &c.

III.

Our hounds, truly train'd, are of excellent breed,
(Brother sportsmen I'm your's while I've breath,)
Our horses are ne'er to be equall'd in speed,
And we always are in at the death.
My voice, &c.

IV.

From the shades could old Nimrod, that hunter of old,
Be permitted to view our domain,
Our horses, our hounds, and our huntsmen so bold,
He'd wish to pass life o'er again.
My voice, &c.

THE PEDLAR.

A BALLAD.

MERRY lasses draw near, I'm a Pedlar so gay,
Just popp'd here, to pay you a visit;
Commodities pleasing and smart I display,
Come out with your money—where is it?
What! what! pretty maidens! you all gather round!
How pleas'd and how smirking you are!
But which to admire have your pretty looks found,
Is it me, merry maids, or my ware?
For, look! I've got ribbons and laces,
And patches to set off your faces;
You'll all look like so many graces,
When deck'd out by me I declare!
And then, I've of bugles and beads such a shew!
Befitting the finest fair lady:
Besides only look, I'm a bit of a beau,
Now an't I? so spruce in my pladdie?
With my tol de lol lol, &c.
You all like a merry Scotch laddie.

II.

Adzookers! sly Sawney, don't look so demure,
If the heart of your lass you'd be stealing,
You must purchase my goods—what a smile—now I'm sure
'Tis with *me*, she would wish to be dealing.
What! what! &c.

III.

III.

I have trampt it to fairs for a few years or so,
And the fair round me all in a crack, were;
O Lord! I'm so follow'd wherever I go!
I'm oblig'd to cry—" Lasses fall back there!"
What! what! &c.

PROLOGUE

TO THE

BOX LOBBY CHALLENGE.

BY THE HON. FRANCIS NORTH.

As some fond father who a bantling rears,
Feels naught but pleasure in his tender years;
His tricks at school, and all the pranks he plays,
E'en the boy's foibles, then excite his praise.
A little spirit well becomes a youth,
Jack, though unlucky—always speaks the truth;
But when arriv'd at a maturer age,
He launches Jackey upon life's great stage:
With joy elate, with anxious fears deprest,
What hopes and horrors fill a parent's breast!
E'er yet he dares to cast the dangerous die,
And shew his darling to the public eye,
The hopes of all his future joy he sends,
To visit some he knows to be his friends.
Surly exclaims (eat up with gout and spleen)
" The stripling's well enough, but much too lean:
" He'll be short-liv'd—he has his mother's cough—
" A galloping consumption took her off."
" Is this Sir Jacob's son?"—old Toothless cries,
" The boy is of a most alarming size!—
" Such o'ergrown measures never can be strong:
" Don't tell his father, but he can't live long."
So when the bard at first prepares his Play,
His heart beats high, and all his prospects gay,
" 'Tis done, 'tis done," th' enraptured poet cries,
" The labour's over, I shall grasp the prize.
" Snarler, upon whose word I can depend,
" Snarler shall see it;—he is indeed a friend.
" How do you like my piece? Good critic, say—
" Nay, do not flatter—Don't you like the Play?"
" Why yes Sir,"—"Eh!"—" The thing is well enough."
" Is it not good?"—" Humph, yes—What cursed stuff!"
" I think, my friend, the Playhouse will be cramm'd,"
" I think so too—and think your Play'll be damn'd."
At length the night, the awful night ensues
Fatal to many an offspring of the Muse;
The father bids his fancy child appear,
And hopes to meet no friendly Snarler here;
Moral, his boy, if entertaining too,
His fortune's fairly made, when judg'd by you.

EPILOGUE

TO THE

SAME.

BY GEORGE COLMAN, JUN. ESQ.

In days of yore, when knights were cas'd in mail,
Like lobsters in a shell, from head to tail;
When sparring nobles, challeng'd to the lists,
Deem'd it ignoble e'er to spar with fists;
Stout were their limbs, and sturdy were their blows:
They met, were slain, or else they slew their foes.—
In modern challenges, how heroes dwindle!
In arms they're nothing—and in legs, they're spindle!
And, ah! how shocking to a peer of old
Some pugilistic noble to behold!
Who, when one brute his brother brute opposes,
Stands umpire of black eyes and bloody noses!
How would the champions, clad in iron suits,
Stare at *our* champions in round hats and boots!
Stare to see Jackey give his card to Bobby,
And 'prentice, challenge 'prentice in the Lobby.
That such things are, we witness ev'ry day,
When heroes quit the counter for the Play;

When

When green box errants hurl the ſharp re-
tort.
Eager for fame, and hot with BEAUFOY's
port!
" Who *are* you, Sir?"—" Who am I?—
Why, I'm—Phoo!
" The world knows me, Sir—damme,
who are you?"
" Meet me to-morrow morning, in Hyde-
Park——
" I'm Mr. PLUMB, the banker's fifteenth
clerk."
Oh! may theſe warriors of the deſk and
quill,
Purſue their petty broils, and challenge
ſtill!
Of ſuch contentions, wholeſome be the
fruit!
And Duelling be brought to diſrepute.
May Engliſhman, no Engliſhman oppoſe,
But wield his ſword againſt *his common
foes!*

EPIGRAM.

On the ſuppoſed Effect to reſult from the Tax upon Attornies.

CHARON TO PLUTO.

MAISTER PLUTO! no longer I
can hold thy boat,
Unleſs you remit me ſome rent;
There ſcarce is a day I can muſter a groat,
For from earth *no Attornies* are ſent.

How diff'rent this age from the good days
of yore,
E'er Pitt had impoſ'd his d——d tax!
The ſcoundrels then flock'd in huge ſhoals
to our ſhore,
With a * client or two on their backs.

Have patience, Old Surly! and hold on
thy farm,
You'll find you've no cauſe to com-
plain;
Brother Jove, when he hears *our* juſt cauſe
of alarm,
Will take Pitt † to his regions again.

CAPT. SNUG.

Fairy Camp, March, 1794.

---

* Many driven to acts of deſperation by the villainy of the raſcally part of an honourable profeſſion.

† Why not *heaven born Miniſters*, as well as *Generals*, we have heard ſo much of?

EXTEMPORE.

For a Hermitage at the elegant Seat of J. P. *Eſq. at K—— W——e, hung round with moral Lines.*

REPINING Hermit! I'll away,
Thy gloom ſhall not my joy con-
troul,
As the gay ſun-beams gild the day,
So mirth's the ſun-ſhine of the ſoul.

As life is ſhort and moſt uncertain,
Why then garniſh it with ſorrow?
Let us, e'er Death ſhall drop the curtain,
Enjoy *to day*, not truſt *to-morrow*.

The hand that ſheds the genial dew,
And on the earth the welcome rain,
Sends, too, the grape of crimſon hue *,
Health, love, and friendſhip, to ſuſtain.

But quaff it not to wild Exceſs,
Leſt Madneſs taint the ſwelling veins;
Let Reaſon's rules thy mind poſſeſs,
'Tis *ſhe* true wit and mirth maintains.

Sound, then, my lyre! in Lydian meaſure,
To Venus, Bacchus, and Apollo,
Be *mine*, wit, women, wine, and pleaſure;
Let *others* thy grave precepts follow.

CAPT. SNUG.

Fairy Camp.

ACTÆON METAMORPHOSED.

Dian loquitur.

" Tell, if thou can'ſt, the wond'rous
ſight diſcloſ'd,
" A Goddeſs naked to thy view ex-
poſ'd.

ADDISON.

SUCH dire decree compell'd theſe horns
to grow,
And ſpread their antlers o'er my enchanted
brow;
But ye fair dames! with virtue leſs ſevere,
Who tread with careleſs grace this magic
ſphere,
Adopt, of Puniſhment, a juſter plan,
Nor make us brutes! till we throw off the
man.

CAPT. SNUG.

Fairy Camp.

---

* Old Port.

To the Editors of the Sporting Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

If you think the following worthy of a place in your valuable Miscellany, you will oblige

Your very humble Servant,
Cymon B——

SONG.

IN the verge of Comus' court
We our midnight revels keep,
Hence dull Morpheus, leaden sleep,
To the sons of Care resort.

Come, then, god of rosy wine,
Bacchus ever gay and young,
And Comus, god of sprightly song;
Song enchanting and divine.

Come, goddess, from the Cyprian grove,
With thy gentle pleasing pain,
O'er thy willing subjects reign,
Lovely Venus, queen of love.

Come thou god of soft desire,
Hither bring thy welcome dart,
Fill each fond, each longing heart,
With panting wishes, burning fire—

And thou, too, "goddess fair and free,"
With thy gaily circling wand,
Come, and in our circle stand,
Heavenly-bright Euphrosyne.

Youthful dance and mirthful sport,
And jolly Laughter, foe to Care,
Come, and in our revels share,
In the verge of Comus' court.

THE BANKER OF LOVE.

At the court of Olympus, assembled by Jove,
'Twas agreed that a Bank should be open'd for Love;
And the Gods, all delighted, then pass'd a decree,
That the Son of fair Venus their Banker should be:
So in pity to mortals, they sent him below
To soften distress, and to banish their woe;
For he debits and credits the Smile and the Kiss,
He's the Patron of Joy, and the Treas'rer of Bliss;
Of the Firm of our House, Truth, and Justice approve,
And Hymen presides o'er the Balance of Love.

'Ere Commerce had shed on Britannia her smiles,
Or Science and Arts had illumin'd her isles,
The fame of our Bank half the Globe had confess'd,
And its influence had warm'd—e'en the Savage's breast,
Philosophers, Prelates, and Princes, all own,
That happiness flows from our Banker alone:
For he debits, &c.

At home, and abroad, both in peace and in war,
His Currency never declines below Par;
Whether good news or bad, whether Stocks rise or fall,
The Bills on our Banker never vary at all.
For their Holders well know, that he ne'er interferes
With the deep speculations of Bulls or of Bears;
For he debits, &c.

He issues his notes from the eyes of the Fair,
And "I promise to pay," is the motto they bear.
His Checques were all form'd by Dame Nature's own hand,
To be fill'd up at pleasure, and paid on demand;
Whilst his Drafts, duly honour'd, his Credit impart;
For the Banker of Love ever draws on the heart:
And he debits, &c.

IMPROMPTU.

On the death of a certain primitive Physician being inserted in the Newspapers, and afterwards contradicted by himself, in a very pompous address to the Public, in which he asserts that he is not only alive, but alive also to the complaints and infirmities of his afflicted fellow creatures, and anxiously desirous of administering the usual relief, derived from his superior physical knowledge and transcendent abilities.

They say I'm dead, I say they lie!
I physics, bleeds 'em, sweats em ——
If, after that, my Patients die,
With all my heart,

I. Lets—em.

INDEX.

A.

ABSENCE, ſtanzas on, 161.
Accidents, numerous, which befel one man, 7.
Account of the World in a Village, a new comedy, 133. Singular activity and horſemanſhip in an aged man and horſe, 150. Of Maratta horſes, 178.
Account of a muſical pigeon, 13. The children in the wood, a farce, 54. the hobby-horſe dance, 68. the ſiege of Berwick, a tragedy, 89.
Anacreontic, 108.
Anecdote of Edward Wortley Montague, Eſq. 35. of hunting, 45. of ſkilful archers, 66. of the king of Naples, by Mrs. Piozzi, 78, 80. of Dick England 83. of the Rev. Mr. L—t, 93, 134. of the preſent Earl of E. 269. of Mr. Beckford's huntſman, 306.
Angling, in St. James's Park, formerly a faſhion among the ladies, 13, for gudgeons, 39. for pearch, 76. for pike, 122, 186, 246. for trout, 171. for tench, 309.
Antelope, the Scythian, how hunted in Perſia, 152.
Antelope, elk, how hunted, 126.
Archers, ſkilful, anecdotes of, 66, 195. a ſong made for the Robinhood ſociety of, 228.
Arrows, fiery, account of, 44.
Aſiatic reſearches, extract from, 218.
Aſs, method of hunting the, in the kingdom of Quito, 307.

B.

Badger chaſe, remarkable, 129.
Bagatelle, 228.
Banker of love, a ſong, 342.
Beagle and harrier compared, 23.
Bear, ſingular inſtance of the ſagacity of a, 19.
Bear-baiting, ancient, in the environs of London, 188.
Berwick, ſiege of, a tragedy, account of, 89.
Bingham, the Hon. Mr. his trial for crim. con. with Lady Eliz. Howard, 238
Bird of Paradiſe, how hunted, 270.
Black cock and great grous, manner of ſhooting the, 11.
Bloods and Bucks, advice to, 103*.
Bon Geneve, 55.
Box lobby challenge, account of, 281.
Boxing matches, at Chatham, and on Sydenham Common, 260.
Brants, a water fowl in North America, how killed, 24.
Breſlaw Table, with obſervations and applications, 268.
Britiſh bowmen, royal, a ſong, 106.
Bull-dog, Engliſh, deſcribed, 57.

C.

Cards and dice, cheating at, how puniſhed, 20.
Caſſino, a new and faſhionable game, directions for playing, 88, 124, 209.
Caſſino, a converſation on, 197.
Cataſtrophe of General Goldſworthy, 297.
Challenge, for a cock-match, 238.
Chaſe of the Mouflon, 64, 119. of the chamois goat, 65. of the badger, 129.
Chaſe, hiſtorical eſſay on the, 317.
Cheating at cards, dice, &c. laws againſt, 20.
Cheſs club, match at the, 182, 297.
Cock, natural hiſtory of the, 183, exploits of, 218, 276.
Cocking, 168, 217, 234.
Cocks, game, breeding and rearing of, 31, 136.
Comus, court of, a ſong, 346.

Connections, a new royal game at cards, how to play, 96.
Coursing meeting at Petworth, 260.
Coursing the hare, a poem, 105.
Cribbage, directions to play at, 40, 79.
Courtship, female, a poem, 105.
Crim. con. trial, Mr. Howard against the Hon. Mr. Bingham, 238.
Cumberland hunt, occasional song on the, 161.
Curious speech of Lord Coningsby, 219.

D.

Death of Lord Mountstuart, account of, 233.
Description of London, by Dr. Johnson, 220. Swinley Lodge, 314.
Detection of false play at dice, 130.
Different sorts of hares, 25.
Digest of the laws concerning game, 21, 264.
Diversions and sports in Henry VIIIth's reign, 247.
Docility, instance of, in mail coach-horses, 38.
Dog-kennel, the king's new, described, 59.
Dog, remarkable instance of the fidelity of a, 324.
Drunken song, 108.
Drury-lane theatre described, 281, 332.
Drusilla, 164.
Duke of Orleans, memoirs of 95.

E.

Elk antelope, how hunted, 126.
Elegy, pastoral, without fiction, 162.
English bull-dog described, 77.
Epigram, on the supposed effect to result from the tax upon attornies, 341.
Epigram, 55, 108, *ib.* 164, 228, 294.
Epilogue to Love's frailties, 291. to the box lobby challenge, 340.
Equestrian paradox, 93. Equestrian regulations pointed out, 198.
Equestrian repositories, remarks on, 277.
Essay on trouts and angling, 150. on the chase, 317.
Etiquette, Spanish, 115.
Exploits of several favourite horses, 87.
Extract from Asiatic researches, 218.
Extraordinary equestrian and pedestrian performances, account of 97*, 204, 278, extraordinary leap, 111, 324.

F.

Fable of the priest and ostler, 56.
Falconry, introduction to, 126.
Faro and rouge et noir, to play, 319.
Farriery, operative, progress of, 34.
Feast of wit; or, sportman's hall, 41, 91, 146, 199, 272, 329.
Female courtship, a poem, 292.
Fly-fishing, 171.
Fowl, wild, Chinese method of taking, 275.
Fox, sagacity of a, 11.
Fox chase, extraordinary, 30, 84, 267.
Fox-hunter, celebrated, anecdote of a, 323.

G.

Gambado's annals of horsemanship, extracts from, 143.
Game, digest of the laws concerning, 21, 264.
Gaming-houses, fashionable, in London, 189.
Gaming, reflections on, 84.
Gaming at Faro and rouge et noir, 319.
Gentlemen, on the term, 28.
Gilpin, Johnny, the second, exploits of, 327.
Goats, chamois, how hunted, 65.

Golds-

Goldſworthy, General, cataſtrophe of, 297.
Great grous and black cock, manner of ſhooting the, 11.
Grooms, practice of tampering with, 194.
Gudgeons, to angle for, 39

H.

Hare, carrying its young in its mouth, 75.
Hare, courſing of the, a poem, 105.
Hares, different ſorts of, 25. humorous letters on, 179. to deſtroy by the hare pipe, 303.
Hark away, a new ſong, 53.
Harrier and beagle comparatively conſidered, 23.
Hawking, 301.
Highflyer, detection of an error concerning, 8. pedigree of, 77. poem on, 106.
Hiſtory, natural, of the ſeal, 121.
Hobby-horſe dance, account of the, 68.
Horſemanſhip, annals of, 143.
Horſes, Maratta, account of, 178.
Horſemen, hints to, 310.
Horſes, purging, propriety of, 17. exploits of ſeveral, 87.
Horſe, trial for improper treatment of, 148. pedigree of a, 242.
Houſes, gaming, 189
Hunting, Letter X. on fox-hunting, 26. letter XI. on fox-hunting, 134. letter XII. on fox-hunting, 305.
Hunting the chamois goat, 65. the Scythian antelope, 74. the bird of Paradiſe, 270. rabbits, 244.
Huntſman's rhapſody, a ſong, 339.
Hyde-park, 221, 311.

I.

Jack's fidelity, a ſong, 292.
Impromptu, 342.
Inſcription on the collar of a young lady's lap-dog, 105.
Inſtance of docility in mail-coach horſes, 138.
Inſtructions for playing at Caſſino, 88, 124, 209. at cribbage, 40, 79.
Inſtructions, Gambado's, for purchaſing a horſe, 70.
Invitation to a robin red-breaſt, 230.
Johnny Gilpin the ſecond, exploits of, 327.
Jolly Ringers, 227.
Judicious practice of medicine, obſervations on, 63.

K.

King, lord, account of the death of, 138.
King's Bench, court of, wager decided in, 90.
King's mews, Charing-croſs, deſcribed, 33.
King's new dog-kennel deſcribed, 59.

L.

Ladies angling in St. James's-park, 13.
Law intelligence concerning appeals, 263.
Leap of an extraordinary kind, near Whitehaven, account of, 111.
Letter, love, of a curious kind, from a young man to his ſweetheart, 266.
Letter X. on hunting, fox-hunting, 26. letter XI. on fox-hunting, 134. letter XII. on fox-hunting, 305.
Lines on a late marriage, 105. for a hermitage at the ſeat of I. P. Eſq. 341.
London, deſcription of, by Dr. Johnſon, 220.
Lord King, account of the death of, 138.
Love's frailties, a comedy, account of, 258.
Love, the banker of, 342.

M.

Mail coach-horſes, docility of, 138.
Making game, 94.

Mange in horfes, 267.
Mare, trial for maiming of a, 149.
Mara, Madam, addrefs to, by Oberon, 162.
Matrimonial fporting, 256.
Matrimony, 173, 264.
Match at Piquet, 229.
Mendoza, account of the trial of, 82.
Method of fifhing for porpuffes, 10.
Morning, ftanzas on the, 293.
Mountftuart, lord, death of, related, 233.
Mufical Pigeon, account of the, 13.
Muffulman's pig, 163.
My grandmother, a mufical farce, favourite fongs in, 163.

N.

Naples, king of, anecdotes of the, 78.
Natural hiftory of the pheafant, 177.
New theatre at Drury-lane defcribed, 332.
Nightingale, natural hiftory of the, 261.
Numerous accidents which befel one man, 7.
Nyl-ghau, natural hiftory of the, 120.

O.

Oak of Fairlop, meeting of the forefters at, 167.
Occafional fong on the Cumberland hunt, 161
Obfervations on the term gentleman, 28. on the judicious practice of medicine, 63. on Breflaw's tables, 268. on gaming, 84. on wadding for guns, 192.
Ode for the new year, 227.
Ode to his grizzle wig, by the late Dr. Warton, 294.
Operative farriery, progrefs of, 34.
Origin of the word fpinfter, 217.
Orleans, D. of, Memoirs of, 95.
Oftler and prieft, a fable, 56.

P.

Palfrey's infirmary, defcription of, 322.
Paradox, equeftrian, 93.
Partridge, natural hiftory of the, 316.
Paftoral elegy, without fiction, 162.
Peaceable rivals, 7.
Perch, to angle for, 76.
Pedeftrian exploits of Thomas Trundley, 302.
Pheafant, natural hiftory of, 176.
Pig, the Muffulman's, 163.
Pigeon, mufical, account of, 13, 252.
Pigeon-fancier, epiftle from a, 322.
Pike, to angle for, 122, 246.
Pigott and Hodgfon, examination of, 36. further account of, 81.
Pond or canal, to replenifh with fifh, 152.
Porpuffes, method of fifhing for, 10.
Portraits, No. I. and II. 299.
Powder and fhot to be ufed in a charge, 69.
Prognoftics of the weather, 15, 73, 139, 306.
Prologue to love's frailties, 291, to the box lobby challenge, 340.
Purging horfes, propriety of, 17.

Q.

Quinze, the game of, how to play, 243.
Quito, method of hunting the afs in the kingdom of, 307.

R.

Rabbits, method of hunting, 244.
Red-breaft, robin, invitation to, 230.
Remarkable inftance of hofpitality, 172.
Remarkable fpeech of Lord Coningfby, 219.
Remarks on the Veterinary College, 5.
Repofitories, equeftrian, remarks on, 277.

Ringers, jolly, 227.
Robinhood society of archers, a song on the, 228.
Robin red-breast, invitation to, 230.
Roebuck, natural history of the, 14.
Royal British bowmen, a song for, 106.
Royal chase, 3, 97.
Royal Shooting-party in France, described, 275.

S.

Sagacity, remarkable, of a pointer, 254. of a bear, 19. of a fox, 11.
Scythian antelope, how hunted in Persia, 152.
Seal, natural history of the, with the manner of hunting it, 121.
Semple, major, account of, 191, 249.
Shoeing horses, method of, 9, 31.
Shot and powder used in a charge, 69.
Songs in the musical farce of the children in the wood, 53. in the siege of Valenciennes, 56. in harlequin faustus, 164. in the generous tar, 294.
Spanish etiquette, 115.
Spinster, origin of the name of, 217.
Sporting Intelligence, 47, 97, 153, 222, 282, 335.
Stanzas on absence, 161. on morning, 293.
Stevens, George Alexander, poetical epistle from, 55.
Swaffham coursing meeting, 38, 117, 209, 278.
Sweetbriar, pedigree and exploits of, 270.
Swinley lodge, description of, 314.

T.

Tampering with grooms, practice of, 194.
Tench, to angle for, 309.
Theatre, Drury-lane, described, 281.
Theatre, No. I. 60, 113, 130, 214.
Theatrical anecdote, 208.
Theatrical sporting, 257.
Thomas Trundley, pedestrian exploits of, 302.
Toxopholite society, laws of the, 206, 239.
Travellers in Switzerland, an opera, 280.
Trial on overturning a stage-coach, 221, 289. for maiming a mare, 149. for improper treatment of a horse, 148.
Trial of Mendoza, 82. for crim. con. 143. extraordinary, 216.
Trick, matrimonial, 219.
Trotting-match, 30. decided in the court of king's bench, 86.
Trout, to angle for, 171.
Truth and reason kick'd out of doors, 274.
Tunbridge, Joseph, now living, aged 101 years, account of, and his family, 113.
Turf gallery, pictures in, described, 210.

V.

Vestry meeting, 216.
Verses addressed to the fair, 162. on highflyer, 106. the pedlar, 339.
Veterinary college, remarks on the, 5, 180.
Veterinarian remonstrance, 303.

W.

Wadding for guns, observations on, 192.
Wager, decided in the court of king's bench, 90.
Wager, the, a poetical tale, 107.
Whimsical wedding, 141.
Wild cattle, how formerly hunted in this country, 102 *.
Wild foul, Chinese, method of taking, 275.
World, compared to a horse-race, 53.
World in a village, a new comedy, account of, 133.
Wortley Montague, anecdote of, 35.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER

FOR PLACING THE CUTS

To the Third Volume.

1.	Cheſs Match to face Title	PAGE.
2.	Stag at Bay - - -	3
3.	King's Mews - - -	33
4.	King's Dog Kennel - -	59
5.	Pheaſant Shooting - -	88
6.	Extraordinary Leap - -	111
7.	Cock Shooting - - -	142
8.	Fairlop Oak - - -	167
9.	Caſſino - - -	197
10.	Swinley Lodge - - -	234
11.	R. Fairbrother and his Horſe -	260
12.	Palfrey's Horſe Infirmary -	322

Racing Calendar to be placed at the end as before directed.

The Addreſs to the Public to be cut off, and placed at the beginning of the Volume.